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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Togo elections: Lawmakers amended Togo's constitution Monday to allow for elections within 60 days, but left the West African nation's military-appointed ruler in power in the interim despite intensifying pressure at home and abroad.

The amendment echoed a plan suggested Friday by President Faure Gnassingbe, which failed to appease the West African leaders who demanded that he step down.

Togo's army announced Gnassingbe's appointment on Feb. 5, hours after his father, Gnassingbe Eyadema died of a heart attack, ending his oppressive 38-year rule.

Demonstrations after Hariri's death: Tens of thousands of opposition supporters shouted insults at Syria and demanded the resignation of their pro-Syrian government in a demonstration in central Beirut, Lebanon, on Monday, marking a week since the assassination of Rafik Hariri, Lebanon's most prominent politician.

The massive protest came as Syria faces mounting international pressure to completely withdraw its army from Lebanon.

Hariri, a former prime minister, was killed Feb. 14 in a massive bomb that the opposition blames on Damascus.

Threats to tsunami aid: Separatist rebels in Indonesia's Aceh province exchanged gunfire with Indonesian soldiers escorting an aid convoy over the weekend, but no relief workers were injured, a spokeswoman said Monday.

Sporadic gunfights between the rebels and security forces have occurred despite a unilateral cease-fire declared by the guerrillas after the Dec. 26 tsunami disaster. The insurgents, who are not known to attack foreigners, have also said they would not target aid groups.

Palestinian prisoners released: Israel freed 500 Palestinian prisoners in a goodwill gesture Monday.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, a crowd of 15,000 welcomed a group of 100 prisoners. Dozens of gunmen fired in the air, among them members of the Islamic militant group Hamas who appeared with their weapons in public and unmasked for the first time since Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed to an unofficial truce earlier this month.

"There will be no peace as long as there is a single prisoner in Israeli jails," said Hassan Yousef, the Hamas leader in the West



Royal succession: Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito and his wife, Crown Princess Masako, smile with their 3-year-old daughter Princess Aiko in the garden of their residence, Togu Palace, in Tokyo last November. A news agency reported Monday that the government is drafting legal changes to allow female succession, meaning Princess Aiko would be next in line to the Chrysanthemum Throne after her father. Japan's royals are facing their most serious succession crisis in centuries. The current law bars women from ascending the ancient Chrysanthemum Throne and no boy has been born to the imperial family since the 1960s. A government panel of experts began debating an amendment to the law last month.

like gays and drug use.

Even though aides insisted there was little damaging information on the tapes, they made no effort to hide the fact that President Bush felt betrayed by conservative author Doug Wade.

"These were casual conversations with someone whom the president considered, or believed to be, a friend," said White House spokesman Ken Lisius.

Couple accused of torture: Only after John and Linda Dollar's 16-year-old son was hospitalized with a head wound did investigators find what they say were signs of abuse at the home: a cattle prod, pliers and what appeared to be toenails.

The Dollars — regarded by Florida state social workers a decade ago as model parents — now stand accused of monstrous acts against five of their eight children, including the 16-year-old, who weighed just 60 pounds when he was hospitalized.

The couple appeared briefly in court Sunday in Lecanto, where a judge denied them bail.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

States

Secret Bush tapes: The White House lashed out Sunday at the "former" Bush family friend who secretly tape-recorded the future president discussing sensitive issues

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PACOM issues list of approved insurers

Firms cleared to sell on base

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

Six companies and their agents are approved to sell life insurance and mutual funds sales on PACOM Defense Department installations, according to Pacific Command's 2005 list of accredited organizations, which was released to U.S. Forces Japan and U.S. Forces Korea officials last week.

PACOM spokesman Lt. Col. Jay Steuck said in a written statement that PACOM officials are unaware of any problems reported with companies or agents that solicit life insurance or mutual funds at Pacific region bases. Stateside sales practices of agents for a handful of insurance companies came under public scrutiny last year after disclosures that they were targeting young servicemembers — some still in basic training — for costly life insurance policies they may not have needed. In January, for instance, American-Amicable Life Insurance announced it was paying about \$1.3 million to more than 900 Georgia service-

Approved insurance companies

The following companies and agents are allowed to solicit life insurance policies and mutual funds sales on DOD installations within PACOM, according to a list the command released last week.

American Family Life Insurance Company

Deck, Robert (Okinaawa/Japan)

Moel, Geoffrey L. (Japan)

Government Personnel Mutual Life Insurance Company

Moyr, George E. (Okinaawa)

McMenamy, John D. (Okinaawa)

Black, Kenneth F., Jr. (Korea)

Morris, Robert L. (Okinaawa)

Coyne, Ronald M. (Okinaawa)

Moyr, George E. (Okinaawa)

DeHarty, David J. (Okinaawa)

Pope, Theodore F. (Okinaawa)

Howard, Jeffrey G. (Okinaawa)

Prowcher, Dennis E. (Okinaawa)

Howard, Mickey A. (Okinaawa)

Sage, James W. (Okinaawa)

Wilson, Lawrence W. (Okinaawa)

Lee, John H. (Korea)

Im, Shin S. (Korea)

McIntire, Brian C. (Okinaawa)

S Star Life Insurance Co.

Integrated Financial Planning

Service-Mutual Funds

Guidinger, David (Japan)

Midland National Life Insurance

Company

Baker, Kendall Lewis (Japan)

Johnston, James L. (Japan)

Shout, George (Japan)

Pioneer American Insurance Company (primarily Japan; also

Philippines, Korea)

Claudin, Richard

Poffitt, Winifred

Edwards, Michael R.

Olsen, Charles

Trans World Assurance Company

Albritton, Reginald W. (Korea)

Lee, H. H. (Japan)

Black, Kenneth F. (Japan)

Im, Shin Soon (Korea)

Coyne, Ron (Japan)

Cumby, Bill (Japan)

McMenamy, John D. (Japan)

DeHarty, David J. (Japan)

Mills, Craig A. (Japan)

Doo, Bryan (Japan)

Morris, Robert L. (Japan)

Howard, Jeffrey G. (Japan)

Moyr, George E. (Japan)

Howard, Mickey A. (Japan)

Pope, Theodore F. (Japan/Korea)

Kelly, William J. (Japan)

Prowcher, Dennis (Japan)

Sage, James W. (Japan)

Wilson, Lawrence W. (Japan)

According to PACOM, the following

companies, when selling for these

companies, have been deleted from

the 2005 list:

Ernst Sevin, American Family Life

Insurance Company

Larry Sinnerman, American Family

Life Insurance Company

Bryan Doo, Government Personnel

Mutual Life Insurance Company

Kelly Anderson, Midland National

Life Insurance Company

Thomas A. Westman, Midland National

Life Insurance Company

Humphrey H. Horton, Trans World

Assurance Company & Government/Personnel

Mutual Life Insurance Company.

members sold policies while in training — a practice barred by both DOD and Georgia.

PACOM must update and publish the list of approved insurers annually, according to the DOD directive governing commercial solicitation, Steuck said. It oversees military bases, which neither federal nor state consumer protection

regulations apply, companies and agents must meet annual DOD accreditation requirements to seek servicemembers' business.

Steuck wrote that DOD accredited its companies while agents are approved by the Unified Combatant Commander's staff. That command's region, Companies must apply each year; in the Pacific,

agents must apply annually to the Pacific insurance accreditation program manager, Steuck said.

Each installation commander sets specific procedures for that installation and appoints a solicitation manager to confirm that companies and agents are accredited. To use securities, agents must apply directly to the installation

commander and meet additional requirements.

For accreditation, DOD requires that life insurance companies be in continuous successful operation for not less than five years and be listed in Best's Life-Health Insurance reports with a B+ rating or better the preceding year, Steuck said.

Somewhat different requirements apply for life insurance and securities agents, but both must have certified copies of current licenses and notarized letters from the companies they represent. Both also must complete a form giving contact and identification information and details of products they sell.

Among other prohibitions, DOD bans door-to-door sales, mass appointments or soliciting servicemembers while on duty and using rebates to facilitate transactions or eliminate competition. Agents generally are permitted to seek a sale only after making an appointment with an individual.

Six agents on the 2004 list have been deleted from this year's. Steuck noted that job changes are among the reasons for such changes. Each agent's accreditation to sell for a company ends when the agent or company terminates that employment, he said.

Email: svan@pstrips.com

Walkathon honors fallen by helping families

Seoul American H.S. raises scholarship funds for children of troops killed in war

BY TERRI WEAVER

Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON — Michelle Pell held up two checks Monday afternoon, the first two donations toward a scholarship and for children of soldiers who died serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The first was from Pell's father, the English teacher acknowledged. But the other was from one of her former Seoul American High School students, 2nd Lt. Tad Tsunoyoshi, now a 2nd Infantry Division platoon leader in Ramadi. He sent a few dollars.

"This check comes from Iraq," Pell told about a dozen current Seoul American students gathered on their day off school to plan a walkathon to raise money for families of fallen servicemen. Pell hopes to raise \$50,000 from the 7-kilometer walk run on April 2, which she expects will draw thousands.

In 2001, almost 15,000 participants raised just more than \$2,000 for families of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack victims.

During that event, only families, soldiers and workers from Yongsan Garrison, the main U.S. military base in Seoul, took part. Now, Pell and her students are trying to draw the entire Pacific region's attention. She's already contacted all Department of Defense schools of soldiers and a few in Japan and has assigned two high school students to line up corporate sponsors.

"This is going to be pizza," she told her band of volunteers over burgers and sodas. "This is going to be a giant event. I have a feeling."

The students' own goals were closer to home. They want to ensure the campus, and the walk's route, have posters and reminders of the 42 Strike Force members who've died in Iraq since deploying from South Korea last summer. They plan to use their own savings to recruit help and pledges from Yongsan middle and elementary schools. They want to make sure South and Main post electronic message boards adver-



Michelle Pell, an English teacher at Seoul American High School in South Korea, talks Monday to students who have volunteered to plan a walkathon that will raise money for families of servicemen who have died in Iraq or Afghanistan.

tise the walk and plan to ask U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Leon LaPorte or 8th Army commander Gen. Charles Campbell to consider making a public service announcement about it.

Money raised, Pell said, will go to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. Since 2000, it's collected donations in memory of servicemen who died in military operations. Pell said the group has approved her starting a fund for scholarships for the servicemen's children.

Pell and the students spent much of their 90-minute meeting discussing how to ensure each person will be walking on behalf of a specific person who died.

For the 2001 walk, each participant was given the name of a 9/11 victim; many students wrote condolence letters to the victims' families. Those families, during the next year, began writing back, Pell said. She now has a scrapbook filled with "thank you" letters.

Sophomore Tricia Rio, 15, suggested the group use the school's morning announcements in March to remember each of the Strike Force soldiers who've died. She also suggested creating a video of one of their planning sessions, to convince even those who might not support the war effort still to donate.

"There's people fighting over there who don't believe in what they are fighting for," she said, adding that she now has three uncles deployed to Iraq.

Pell said she plans to walk for the dozens of former students now in Iraq, such as Tsunoyoshi. The event also will remember another Seoul American alumna — Capt. Sean Sims, a 1990 graduate who died in Fallujah in November.

Pell said she knows organizers have a lot of work to do, but she's undaunted by the challenge. She has already set up an e-mail for the event: walkathon42@hotmail.com

Email Terri Weaver at: weaver@pstrips.com

Apply now for Aviation Camp

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Wakasa Teen Center is taking applications through March 2 for Teen Aviation Camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., this summer. Applicants must be high school sophomores or juniors next fall and interested in attending the Air Force Academy or making the Air Force a career. The camp runs June 4-9. Stop by the teen center to pick up an application and schedule an application interview. Call DSN 226-2170.

Essays sought for contest

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Lumney Youth Center is taking entries for the Armed Services YMCA Essay Contest through March 10. Children of active-duty or retired servicemen in first through 12th grade are eligible to compete for U.S. savings bonds. The essay topic is "What you like to read." Entrants in grades one through eight should write an essay of 300 words or less; entrants in grades nine through 12 should write essays of 500 words or less. Visit the Armed Services YMCA Web site at www.asymca.org for more information, or call the youth center at DSN 226-3220.

Restaurant closed for lunch

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Los Guerreros Mexican restaurant will be closed for lunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 7 a.m. and includes food and games. Participants are asked to bring a sleeping bag. Children of deployed servicemenbers have first priority. Sign up by March 16. Call DSN 226-3220.

Youth center holds lock-in

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Children ages 9 to 12 may sign up for the March 18 "Youth Lock-In." March 18 at Lumney Youth Center. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 7 a.m. and includes food and games. Participants are asked to bring a sleeping bag. Children of deployed servicemenbers have first priority. Sign up by March 16. Call DSN 226-3220.

From The Associated Press

Threat doesn't stop Philippines exercise

Marxist rebels warn U.S. troops to stay out of their area during 'Balikatan' maneuvers

BY TERESA CERJANO

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — More than 300 U.S. troops and 650 Filipino soldiers started a major military exercise in the Philippines' rural northeast Monday, brushing off a threat by Marxist rebels to attack the Americans if they venture into guerrilla strongholds.

The two-week deployment of U.S. forces is part of annual military maneuvers — dubbed "Balikatan" or "shouldering the load together" — aimed at promoting the

ability of U.S. and Filipino troops to work together in a potential security threat.

The troops also were expected to help deliver aid to the mountains of Quezon, one of the provinces worst hit by successive storms and typhoons late last year. More than 1,000 people died in landslides and flash floods.

The troops will construct new school buildings and provide medical and dental services to communities in nearby Laguna province, officials said.

Communist guerrillas have said the rebel operations could be a pretext by U.S.

troops to intrude into rural New People's Army strongholds in the two provinces to spy on — and help crush — the Marxist rebel movement.

They said they were "ready to fight U.S. combat troops that help the [military] trample on human rights and kill Filipinos."

U.S. Charge d'Affaires Joseph Musumeci said there was no need to bolster the regular security provided to American troops on military exercises. "We think it's mostly just talk," he said of the rebel threat.

He criticized the guerrillas for threatening an activity aimed at helping the poor.

Military chief of staff Gen. Efren Abu said the civic work would be "like fighting terrorism on another front." Communist insurgents have staged numerous attacks on military and police targets in both of the impoverished provinces.

The joint military exercises are allowed under a Mutual Defense Treaty and another agreement that authorizes temporary visits of U.S. troops to the Philippines, a former U.S. colony.

The guerrillas have been waging a Marxist insurrection for more than three decades and are on U.S. and European Union lists of terrorist organizations.

GI brings Iraqi boy to United States as foster child

The Associated Press

MAUSTON, Wis. — Capt. Scott Southworth took his soldiers to a Baghdad orphanage in 2003 to befriend the children, and a small boy with cerebral palsy immediately returned the favor, crawling across the floor to sit next to him.

More than a year later, Southworth has made a return trip to Iraq and brought 11-year-old Ala'a to Mauston, where Southworth now works as Juneau County district attorney.

Physicians, social workers and some politicians in Wisconsin all came together to help Southworth bring his new foster son home.

Southworth, 32, who is single, knew the alternative for Ala'a was life in a government orphanage with little chance of adequate medical care or an education.

Iraqi law won't allow Southworth to adopt Ala'a, but he was able to bring the boy to Wisconsin last month under a "humanitarian parole" that lets him make sure the boy gets medical care and goes to school. Humanitarian parole lasts a year, and Southworth says it can be extended or other immigration possibilities will be available.

"He will be staying with me," said Southworth, who served in Iraq from June 2003 to July 2004 as head of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Military Police Company.

Ala'a understands both Arabic and English, but must use a wheelchair and can't fully use his arms.

Southworth and his fellow sol-

diers visited the Mother Teresa Orphanage in Baghdad a few times a week for several months.

"Ala'a really adopted me," he said. "By the time we left that day, he was trying to take off my watch or to do anything he could to keep me from leaving the orphanage."

He learned the orphanage would eventually transfer Ala'a to a government facility for older children and adults.

"One of the Iraqi doctors told me that if Ala'a went there, there was a good chance his life was over — and that wasn't just because he'd be warehoused in a room, he meant his life might be over," Southworth said.

When he returned home last summer, he launched his campaign for district attorney and his effort to bring Ala'a home.

"Humanitarian parole is very rare," he said. "I don't know if there has been another case like this."

Ala'a isn't eligible for Southworth's health insurance, but Wisconsin doctors have promised to provide free care. Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton offered to help with letters of recommendation, as did Sen. Russ Feingold and Rep. Mark Green.

Southworth started his new job Jan. 3 as district attorney in Mauston, about 60 miles northwest of Madison. A few weeks later, he

learned the Department of Homeland Security had approved the humanitarian parole, and he soon was on his way to Iraq.

Ala'a was waiting for him at the Baghdad airport. Now he is enrolled in middle school, and al-

ready has two friends.

"I think I've been the lucky one," Southworth said. "He's making my life more fulfilling. I think, maybe, my lifestyle would be focused on me. Now I have someone else to focus on."



Capt. Scott Southworth, 32, carries his foster son Ala'a in their apartment in Mauston, Wis. Southworth first met Ala'a, who has cerebral palsy, when he took his soldiers to a Baghdad orphanage in 2003. More than a year later, Southworth returned to Iraq to pick up the 11-year-old.

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3 GIs killed, 8 hurt in Iraq bombing

BY JAMIE TARABAY
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Three U.S. soldiers were killed in Iraq on Monday when a roadside bomb exploded as they were evacuating a fellow soldier, the U.S. military said.

Eight soldiers also were wounded when the roadside bomb exploded. The soldiers were evacuating a soldier who'd been injured when his convoy collided with a civilian vehicle, the U.S. command said in a statement. The location of the accident was not given.

U.S. Marines broke down doors and raided houses Monday on the second day of an offensive aimed at cracking down on insurgent activity in several troubled cities west of Baghdad.

In Ramadi, U.S. Marines fanned out across the city, setting up checkpoints, searching cars and sealing off areas to prevent people from entering or leaving as they carried out raids. The operation came one day after launching the operation and putting in place a nighttime curfew.



U.S. soldiers remove a damaged Humvee at the scene of a blast that overturned a Humvee in the Dora area of Baghdad on Monday.

Iraqi Maj. Abdul Karim al-Faraji said troops detained a prominent Sunni Muslim cleric, Mohammed Naeir Ali al-Jibeli, who heads the al-Bu'faraq tribe, along with 12 of his relatives. The new opera-

tion was under way in several other Euphrates River cities in Anbar, including Hest, Baghdad, Hadithah and the provincial capital Ramadi, the military said.

The raids occurred as Shiites of

the winning United Iraqi Alliance met in Baghdad to hash out a final prime ministerial candidate for the newly elected 275-member National Assembly.

Ahmad Chalabi, a secularist once known for his ties to Washington, and Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the conservative interim vice president, will face off in a secret ballot to determine who will be the Shiite majority's choice for Iraqi prime minister, officials said Monday.

Meanwhile, gunmen in the northern city of Mosul abducted an Iraqi television presenter, an official from her network said Monday. Raiedah Mohammed Wagh Wazan was abducted by several masked gunmen Sunday night while she was returning home, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. military said insurgents targeted the local TV station "several times in the past week because they have been broadcasting programs that highlighted the negative effects of insurgent activity."

Rebuilding funds eaten up by costs for security

BY T. CHRISTIAN MILLER

The Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD — Skyrocketing security costs have forced U.S. officials here to slash an additional \$1 billion from projects intended to rebuild Iraq's shattered infrastructure, dealing another blow to U.S. plans to pacify Iraq by improving basic services.

William Taylor, a U.S. diplomat who oversees Iraq reconstruction efforts, said the country's violent insurgency has created a "security premium," gobbling up money that would have been spent to provide clean water, electricity and sanitation for Iraqis.

The slow pace in rebuilding Iraq has raised protests from Iraqis, who continue to suffer from a lack of basic services. Many Iraqi homes and businesses have electricity for only a few hours a day. Raw sewage still streams straight into the Tigris River, just as it did during Saddam Hussein's rule.

Iraqi officials expressed frustration with the latest cutbacks, saying fewer water, sewer and electricity projects could further alienate Iraqis and bolster the insurgency. Already, one top Iraqi official said she had to cut back on plans to deliver clean water to residents of the restive cities of Fallujah and Mosul.

"I'm amazed at how a program meant for reconstruction that could have provided more services and could have effected stabilization could be cut so drastically," said Iraq's minister of public works, Nasreen Mustapha Berwari.

When Congress initially approved \$18.4 billion in November 2003 to help rebuild Iraq, the majority of the money was intended to improve Iraq's electrical and water systems, which had suffered from years of neglect during U.N.-imposed sanctions. But the reconstruction program has struggled to take off in the face of violent attacks, intimidation of workers, and allegations of fraud.

In the face of increasing violence, reconstruction officials have shifted funds during the past few months to improve security. Now, the largest chunk of money, some \$5 billion, pays for weapons, uniforms and other equipment to help Iraqi forces quell the insurgency.

As the reconstruction has focused on security, private contractors working on the rebuilding program have had to increase the amount of money they spend to protect themselves and their projects. Security costs now range from 5 percent to 25 percent, depending on the project.

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IN THE WORLD

Bush urges Europe to move beyond Iraq split

BY TOM RAUM

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — President Bush appealed to Europe on Monday to move beyond animosities over Iraq and join forces in encouraging democratic reforms across the Middle East. He also prodded Russia to reverse a crack-down on political dissent, demanded that Iran end its nuclear ambitions and told Syria to get out of Lebanon.

Bush did not rule out using military force in Iran, saying all options remain on the table. But, addressing widespread concerns in Europe that Iran is the next U.S. target after Iraq, Bush said: "Iran is ... different from Iraq. We're in the early stages of diplomacy."

Bush's speech on a five-day fence-mending trip to Europe was aimed at both U.S. and European audiences. "In a new century, the alliance of America and Europe is the main pillar of our security," he said.

He used the word "alliance" 12 times in his speech to underscore his aim to repair relations frayed by the war in Iraq.

But not all his speech was conciliatory.

Bush had pointed criticism for Russia three days ahead of a meeting with President Vladimir Putin in Slovakia. Referring to Putin's

recent steps to consolidate power, rollback democratic reforms and curb press and political freedoms, Bush said: "We must always remind Russia that our alliance stands for a free press, a vital opposition, the sharing of power and the rule of law. The United States should place democratic reform at the heart of their dialogue with Russia."

Bush's speech was delivered in an ornate ballroom of Brussels' Concert Noble hall before an audience of business leaders, academics and diplomats. It was greeted mostly by subdued applause.

Bush urged greater "tangible political, economic and security assistance to the world's newest democracy," Iraq. And he called for European allies to stand by fledgling democracy movements throughout the world, and especially in the Middle East.

Bush said he recognized that full democracy could take a while to root. Even in the United States, democracy came slowly, Bush said, pointing out that women and minorities were not treated equally "and that struggle hasn't ended."

Bush had sharp words for Syria, calling on leaders in Damascus to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. "The Lebanese people have a right to be free from Syrian occupation," he said. "The United States and Europe share an interest in an independent, democratic Lebanon," Bush said.



President Bush delivers a speech pressing for greater trans-Atlantic relations, at the Concert Noble Ballroom in Brussels on Monday.

On Iran, Bush said the United States was working with European allies Britain, France and Germany on a diplomatic solution to end Iran's nuclear program. His administration, however, has been skeptical of the Europeans' approach to offer Iran economic and political incentives not to develop nuclear arms.

Trip may prove if stomachs are way to leaders' hearts

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — At one of their last meals together, President Bush said French President Jacques Chirac had cheeseburgers. "It was excellent," the French leader said.

Although they have had no stomach for each other's politics at times, the trans-Atlantic sparring partners seemingly share an appreciation for good food during diplomacy.

Bush hosted a dinner Monday for Chirac at the U.S. ambassador's residence in the Belgian capital, the U.S. president's first stop on a fence-mending trip to Europe.

The two leaders said before the dinner they were committed to restoring good relations despite their disagreement over the war in Iraq.

"I'm looking for a good cowboy," Bush joked when a French reporter asked him whether relations had improved to the point where the U.S. president could invite Chirac to his ranch in Texas.

The choice of Chirac as dinner guest, one of the most outspoken critics of the U.S.-led war in Iraq, reflected Bush's stated hope for the visit to settle rocky trans-Atlantic relationships.

Bush and Chirac last dined together in June, when Bush hosted leaders from the Group of Eight industrial nations at a summit on Sea Island, Ga.

At the time, both swapped generous words about each others' national cuisine.

The American president said of the French meal he ate with Chirac a few days before during the 60th anniversary of World War II D-Day landings: "The food was superb."

Chirac repaid the compliment at Sea Island.

"Over the last few days, the cuisine here in America was certainly on a par with French cuisine, and I ask the president to convey my thanks to the chef," the French leader said.

"He particularly liked the cheeseburger he had," Bush said.

"It was excellent," replied Chirac.

U.N. refugee chief resigns over harassment charges

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — After months of criticism, Secretary-General Kofi Annan decided that U.N. refugee chief Ruid Lubbers had to go because of the growing controversy over allegations that the former Dutch prime minister

had sexually harassed female staffers.

Lubbers didn't go easily. He resigned Sunday but proclaimed his innocence, saying he felt insulted and accusing Annan of giving in to "media pressure."

At a meeting with Annan on Friday, U.N. diplomats said the secretary-general offered the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees two choices — resign or face suspension and charges of breaking U.N. rules.

Allegations first surfaced last year that he had made unwanted sexual advances toward a female employee, identified in media reports as an American. But it was only on Friday that the British newspaper The Independent published the first detailed descriptions of her allegations and statements from four other women who didn't file official complaints but claimed Lubbers sexually har-

assed them.

As the United Nations struggles to improve its image in the face of scandals over the U.N. oil-for-food program and sexual abuse by U.N. peacekeepers in Congo, diplomats said Annan decided that Lubbers had become a liability. He was also a fighter.

After defiantly telling reporters that Annan had not asked for his resignation, Lubbers flew home to Geneva on Friday. Apparently knowing what was coming, Lubbers, 65, decided to resign before being suspended.

In his letter of resignation, Lubbers maintained his innocence, indicating that Annan wanted him to step down. "For more than four years I gave all my energy to UNHCR," he said. "Now in the middle of a series of problems and with ongoing media pressure you apparently view this differently."

"To be frank, and despite all my loyalty, insult has now been added to injury and therefore I resign as high commissioner," Lubbers said.

On Friday, he insisted the allegations of sexual harassment were "made up" and "slander." Lubbers vehemently denied the female employee's allegation that he put his arms around her waist, pulled her back toward him and kissed her groin into her back at the end of a meeting in December 2003.

"There were two witnesses in the room who very clearly saw that I ushered the lady out of the room with my hand on her back, and that was all," he said.

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Clinton-Bush tour stops in Sri Lanka

BY CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

The Associated Press

WELIGAMA, Sri Lanka — Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton spent time with child survivors of Asia's tsunami on Monday, getting clues to the emotional impact of the disaster after surveying the massive physical destruction it caused.

In the fishing town of Weligama on Sri Lanka's battered southern coast, Clinton and Bush visited temporary houses built of cinderblocks and iron sheeting and sat with children who danced, sang and drew pictures of their experiences.

"Some of them are still drawing about the tsunami, and some of them are drawing life as they remember it and as they want it to be again," Clinton said.

The two former leaders toured facilities built with U.S. government aid to house people whose homes were washed away in the Dec. 26 tsunami, which killed more than 30,000 people in Sri Lanka.

Earlier, they inspected water purification equipment in Koggala, another hard-hit southern town. The American delegation flew by helicopter from the capital, Colombo, to the south, traveling over coastlines still strewn with rubble and debris.

The current president's father praised U.S. troops involved in tsunami relief, though he said he understood there might be some apprehension about their presence.

"I'm very proud of what these guys did," Bush said. "It's a humanitarian mission that I think is well understood here."



Former Presidents Bill Clinton, left, and George H.W. Bush talk with children Monday as they visit displaced residents from the December tsunami in Weligama, Sri Lanka.

U.S. officials wary of 'Minutemen' border patrols

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Intent on securing the vulnerable Arizona border from illegal immigrant crossings from Mexico, U.S. officials are bracing for what they call a potential new threat this

spring: the Minutemen.

Nearly 500 volunteers have already joined the Minuteman Project, anointing themselves civilian border patrol agents determined to stop the immigration flow that routinely, and easily, seeps past federal authorities. They plan to patrol a 40-mile

stretch of the southeast Arizona border throughout April when the tide of immigrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border peaks.

"I felt the only way to get something done was to do it yourself," said Jim Gilchrist, a retired accountant and decorated Vietnam War veteran who is helping recruit Minutemen across the country.

"We've been repeatedly accused of being people who are taking the law into our own hands," said Gilchrist, 56, of Aliso Viejo, Calif. "That is an outright bogus statement. We are going down there to assist law enforcement."

Officials concede the 370-mile Arizona border is the most porous stretch on the U.S.-Mexico line. Moreover, recent intelligence shows that al-Qaida terrorists are likely to enter the country through the Mexico border, James Loy, the deputy secretary of the Homeland Security Department, said last week.

Of the 1.1 million illegal immigrants caught by the U.S. Border Patrol last year, 52 percent crossed into the country at the Arizona border. The agency increased the number of agents in the Tucson sector, which has its largest staff, from 1,700 to 2,100 over the last 18 months.

But that number is going to grow to try to plug the remaining holes, said Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Robert C. Bonner. About 10,000 federal agents now patrol the 2,000-mile southern border, he said.

Officials fear the Minutemen patrols could cause more trouble than they prevent. Some of the volunteers plan to arm themselves.

"Any time there are firearms and you're out in the middle of no-man's land in difficult terrain, it's a dangerous setting," said Bonner, whose agency is keeping a close eye on the Minutemen plans.

"The Border Patrol does this every day, and they are qualified and very well-trained to handle the situation," he said. "Ordinary Americans are not. So there's a danger that not just illegal immigrants might get hurt, but that American citizens might get hurt in this situation."

Something dramatic needed to be done to curb the years of crime, property damage and trash dumping caused by the border crossings, Gilchrist said.

"Things are out of control" he said. "And they've been out of control for decades."

Trash heap collapse

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A 30-foot-tall heap of garbage collapsed onto a neighborhood Monday, killing 19 people and crushing dozens of houses, officials said.

More than 100 people were missing in the collapse near the West Java town of Bandung, which came after days of torrential rains, said police chief Capt. Susanti Rahni.

Residents and scavengers who eke out a living by sorting through the refuse and reselling recyclable items also were believed to have been caught in the collapse.

"We fear that more than 100 residents died because 46 houses were crushed by debris while families slept inside in the early morning," Rahni said.

She said rescuers were using heavy machinery to remove the garbage.

Trainer's death at zoo

VIENNA, Austria — Officials at the Vienna zoo defended its safety measures Monday, a day after a young elephant bull crushed a keeper to death in an attack that came just three years after jaguars fatally mauled another zoo worker.

The elephant, Abu, became aggressive Sunday as his chief keeper, Gerd Kohl, was showing him. The animal pinned Kohl to the wall and impaled him with his tusks. Kohl, an elephant expert who had cared for Abu since his birth at the zoo almost four years ago, died immediately. He was 39.

China-N. Korea talks

BEIJING — A top Chinese envoy Monday sought to persuade North Korea to rein in nuclear disarmament talks, while Japan, South Korea and the United States planned their own meeting to discuss how to deal with Pyongyang's claim to have nuclear weapons.

Wang Jiarui, head of the Chinese Communist Party's international department, had planned to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Il over the weekend, the official China Daily newspaper reported.

The Russian ITAR-Tass news agency reported from Pyongyang that Wang met Sunday with Kim for nearly three hours. It cited unidentified foreign experts in the North's media as saying that the length of the meeting suggested the "sides might have had serious contradictions."

Meanwhile, Japan, the United States and South Korea were planning their own talks on how to handle the standoff, although no date had been set. "Naturally, we think it's necessary to hold talks among Japan, the United States and South Korea as soon as possible," Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told reporters in Tokyo on Monday.

From wire reports

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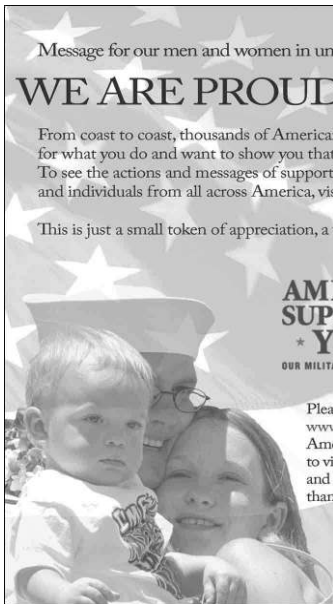
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IN THE STATES

Storms slam Southern Calif.

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mudslides forced some people to flee their homes and may have trapped others Monday as Southern California was soaked by the latest in a series of storms that were blamed for three deaths, stalled commuter rail service and power outages.

As much as 3 inches of rain was expected along the Southern California coast with 5 inches in the foothills, said Andrew Rorke, meteorologist for the National Weather Service. The mountains could see up to 2 feet of snow.

Rescue workers searched for people believed to be trapped in about 10 feet of mud that crashed into a condominium complex in Hacienda Heights, a suburb east of Los Angeles, said Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Mark Savage.

About 30 people were evacuated from 11 homes in Glendale, north of downtown Los Angeles, because of mudslides and flooding, officials said. Three homes on an unstable hill were evacuated in nearby Pasadena.

In the coastal community of La Conchita, where a landslide killed 10 people last month, six families elected to leave during the night because of the heavy rain and a steady flow of mud on the bluffs behind the town, said Capt. Bill Flanagan of the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. Warnings had been issued earlier and the community about 70 miles north of Los Angeles was described as a ghost town Saturday after other residents moved out.

The latest batch of rain, snow and hail started battering the re-

gion Sunday, part of a series of storms that arrived Friday and was expected to continue into Tuesday. Since Thursday, downtown Los Angeles had gotten more than 6.5 inches of rain.

Early Monday, the rain triggered a mudslide that struck a home in the city's Woodland Hills area in the San Fernando Valley, killing one man, officials said.

In the city's Sun Valley area, a repair worker was killed late Sun-

day falling into a 30-foot-deep sinkhole created by the storm, said Fire Department spokesman Melissa Kelley. The body wasn't recovered until Monday morning because of downed power lines near the chasm, she said.

And in Orange County, a 16-year-old girl was killed by boulders that crashed into her family's apartment in a rural area east of Irvine, said Joseph Luckey, supervising deputy coroner.



With his 4-month-old daughter Caroline tucked inside his jacket, Nathan Fairman on Sunday uses a broom to clear snow from his car in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

AP

Yet another snowstorm hits battered New England

The Associated Press

TAUNTON, Mass. — New Englanders should know better than to write off winter in the middle of February. But for anyone who thought the worst had passed, Mother Nature provided a chilly reminder on Monday.

Snow began falling overnight and became heavy at times during the morning commute. Fortunately, most schools were closed for the Presidents Day holiday and the roads were relatively empty.

"Anybody who thought winter was over wasn't looking at the calendar," said meteorologist William Babcock at the National Weather Service in Taunton.

Forecasters predicted 4 to 7 inches for the Boston area. Hilly areas of central and northern Massachusetts could get closer to nine.

By daybreak, parts of Hampshire County in western Massachusetts already had 4 inches, according to the National Weather Service. State police reported numerous accidents.

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Commissary locator highlights Web site change

FORT LEE, Va. — The “commissary locator,” a new driving-distance calculator and mapping feature on <http://www.commissaries.com>, highlights several changes to the Defense Commissary Agency Web site designed to help patrons maximize their shopping experience.

The Web site sports a new red, white and blue motif with drop-down navigation menus to give the site a consistent look and operation throughout and to help visitors navigate more speedily. It also gives visitors an option to view Flash animations highlighting features that make commissary shopping so unique and popular among U.S. military service members.

“The changes couldn’t come at a better time. November marked the first anniversary of unlimited commissary shopping for Guard and Reserve families, many of whom live some distance

from a commissary. Our new commissary locator feature will make it easy for them to determine where to shop,” said Patrick B. Nixon, DeCA’s acting director and chief executive officer.

Visitors use the commissary locator by providing their ZIP code and a driving distance of their choice into data fields on a Web page. The system responds by providing a list of all commissaries within the driving distance. When visitors select a commissary from the list, they’re taken to that commissary’s Web page that features a link for detailed driving directions to the commissary from a location provided by the visitor. The Dec. 1 launch of the new-look Web site comes four years after it was last changed. The site’s content is essentially the same, although it’s been organized and presented a little differently in some cases to better present content that’s

been added in the last four years.

The popular commissary store Web pages, which each of the 272 commissaries maintain themselves to provide the most current local shopping information possible, are still featured under the “locations” navigation button.

Designed with commissary shoppers in mind, the site also serves DeCA employees and its business partners. A new “about us” navigation button serves as the gateway to job announcements, information for employees, information for business partners and as a way to access the online customer comment form. Thanks to the drop-down navigation menus, these popular features are just a click away from the home page.

School nurses see need for emergency training

BY JOE MILICIA
The Associated Press

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — Long associated with treating playground scrapes and tummy aches, school nurses across the United States say they need to be more prepared for emergencies such as terrorist attacks. Many are trying to work around tight school budgets and a lack of respect as front-line responders to get the training needed to prepare for the worst.

"Because of 9/11, so many things have changed," said Kathy Steffey, a nurse at Lakeview High School in Cortland, Ohio. Nearly half the nurses who responded to a National Association of School Nurses survey listed emergency preparedness as their highest priority. But, disaster preparedness trainer Deborah Strouse noted that many American schools don't even have a full-time nurse or health services.

"They're really on the front line before even the [emergency worker] gets there," said Wanda Miller, executive director of the school nurses association. "They are the person that has to react, has to be prepared and must have some kind of plan in place to manage the situations that occur."

Schools were recognized as potential terrorist targets long before the seizure of a Russian school in September in which 330 hostages were killed.

Many developed disaster plans follow-

ing the Columbine school shootings in Colorado in 1999 or the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Yet, they do not have the funding to train administrators and teachers on how to carry out the plans, said Julie Underwood, general counsel for the National School Boards Association.

Ohio's Columbus Public Schools is an exception. The district is using a \$454,000 grant from the Homeland Security Department to train a team of school personnel in each of its 140 schools to respond in an emergency, spokesman Greg Viebranz said. "We'd like to be considered a model for our efforts," Viebranz said.

Other states are trying to catch up. Acting New Jersey Gov. Richard Codey, in his State of the State address last month, made protecting schools from terrorists a top priority. He said security experts would tour every school before next fall and that security courses would be taught to educators, bus drivers and nurses.

Federal officials acknowledge that it is difficult to give a nationwide assessment of schools' disaster preparedness.

Bill Modzeleski, associate deputy undersecretary for the Education Department's office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, said there's still more work to do. "We've really encouraged schools to look at crisis planning from A to Z. We have to plan for everything," Modzeleski said. "I don't think we should ever be satisfied."



Bill Britt, director of the Association of Patient Advocates and who suffers from epilepsy and post-polio complications, uses cannabis to help ease his chronic pain.

AP

California growers want their pot pesticide-free

BY MICHELLE LOCKE

The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — Medical-marijuana growers in Mendocino County — a Northern California outpost that is home to vegans,

vintners, libertarians and aging hippies — want to have their pot certified as organic. The notion of pesticide-free pot is making some people smile. But county officials say the issue is serious, and they are asking the state whether they can regulate pot-growing and pronounce some crops organic.

They say that with no system to regulate cultivation, consumers are at risk.

"We regulate wine grape growers and pear growers and everybody else, so why shouldn't we also regulate pot growers?"

said Tony Linegar, assistant agricultural commissioner for Mendocino County.

California, one of 11 states with medical marijuana laws, allows people to grow, smoke or obtain pot with a doctor's recommendation.

If the county got the go-ahead to regulate organic medical marijuana, it would be "absolutely a first," said Allen St. Pierre of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. Regulating cultivation would be "a huge leap in the public discourse and policy-making, in that it recognizes that medical cannabis is legal but it needs to have some sort of local controls placed on it."

A request last month by two marijuana growers who want their crops to be certified organic is being evaluated by state officials.

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Jazz treasures sold at auction

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lionel Hampton's vibraphone and Dizzy Gillespie's trumpet were among a treasure trove of 450 pieces of jazz memorabilia auctioned to raise money for jazz charities.

Hampton's engraved 1930s King George instrument sold for \$50,000 said Kim Anello, a spokeswoman for the Guernsey's auction house, which conducted the sale. Gillespie's custom-made Martin trumpet fetched \$26,000.

A handwritten letter from John Coltrane to his mother in 1964 sold for \$16,000; another sold for \$14,000. The identities of the winning bidders were not released.

Also up for auction were items such as Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong's trumpet, a saxophone engraved with Charlie "Bird" Parker's name, an unreleased tape of a 1951 Parker performance and a rhinestone gown from the late 1960s in which Peggy Lee sang smoldering songs such as "Fever."

Thelonious Monk's smoking jacket had the name of his song evoking his beloved wife embroidered inside the sleeve, with a whimsical detail — "Crepuscul with Nellie" was misspelled.

The auction was held at the new home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, in the Time Warner complex in Manhattan. Bidders participated by telephone, on eBay or in person.



AP photos

Top: Dizzy Gillespie's trumpet, left, and a 31-page letter by Louis Armstrong to his manager, were among jazz items up for auction. **Right:** Arlan Ettinger, president of Guernsey's auction house, shows off Roy Haynes' drums, at Lincoln Center in New York.

Guernsey's refrained from setting price estimates "because prices are set by precedents — and there's no precedent for these items," company president Arlan Ettinger said before the sale.

Items were donated by the musicians' families. Proceeds from the sale were to go to jazz foundations, archives and young jazz artists.



Paramedics die, patient lives in train crash

FULTON, Ark. — A horrific train crash with an ambulance may have killed the three paramedics inside, but they succeeded in saving their patient.

Aeda Gayton couldn't believe the irony that her mother, moments after suffering a stroke, survived and the emergency workers didn't.

Charlene Gayton, 68, of Fulton remained in stable condition Sunday in a Texarkana, Texas, hospital after suffering a stroke Saturday. She survived the crash just outside her mobile home while her three rescuers, EMTs Jeff Ferrand, 37, and John Rook, 23, of Hope and Christopher Klingan, 23, of Texarkana, Texas, were thrown from the ambulance and killed.

Two wounded in shipyard shooting

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — A disgruntled employee opened fire Monday at a shipyard, wounding two co-workers, police said.

Police Lt. Paul Leonard identified the alleged shooter as Alexander L. Lett of Pascagoula, an employee of the Northrop Grumman Ships Systems shipyard that builds ships for the Navy and the Coast Guard.

Police said Lett tried to leave the complex after the shooting but was detained by Northrop employees and later taken into custody.

He had arrived at work and "was disgruntled for some reason," Detective Sgt. Jeff Barnes said.

The wounded workers were taken to hospital where their conditions were not immediately available.

Olympic delegation tours New York

NEW YORK — The city, digging out from a snowstorm, rolled out a warm welcome Monday for the 13 delegates charged with helping select a host city for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

"Nice to see you. Welcome," Mayor Michael Bloomberg told the International Olympic Committee evaluation committee delegates during a meet-and-greet ceremony at the Plaza Hotel. He later joked that the blanket of snow positioned the city to also make a bid for the Winter Games.

The evaluation commission is in town for a final round of scrutiny, evaluating the five cities still in the running for the Olympics. The group already toured Madrid and London, with Moscow and Paris left to visit. The IOC will weigh the evaluators' findings and announce its decision July 6.

From The Associated Press

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FACES

'Fear and Loathing' author Thompson takes own life

BY ROBERT WELLER
The Associated Press

ASPEN, Colo. — Hunter S. Thompson, the hard-living writer who inserted himself into his accounts of America's underbelly and popularized a first-person form of journalism in books such as "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," has committed suicide.

Thompson was found dead Sunday in his Aspen-area home of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, sheriff's officials said. He was 67. Thompson's wife, Anita, had gone out before the shooting and was not home at the time.

He also is survived by his son, Juan Thompson.

Besides the 1972 classic about Thompson's

visit to Las Vegas, he also wrote "Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72." The central character in those wild, sprawling satires was "Dr. Thompson," a snarling, drug- and alcohol-crazed observer and participant.

Thompson is credited alongside Tom Wolfe and Gay Talese with helping pioneer New Journalism — or, as he dubbed his version, "gonzo journalism" — in which the writer made himself an essential component of the story.

Thompson, whose early writings mostly appeared in Rolling Stone magazine, often portrayed himself as wildly intoxicated as he reported on such figures as Jimmy Carter, Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton.

"Fiction is based on reality unless you're a fairy-tale artist," Thompson said in 2003.

"You have to get your knowledge of life from somewhere. You have to know the material you're writing about before you alter it."

Born July 18, 1937, in Kentucky, Hunter Stotson Thompson served two years in the Air Force, where he was a newspaper sports editor.

Thompson was a counterculture icon at the height of the Watergate era, and once said Nixon represented "that dark, venal, and incurably violent side of the American character."

Thompson also was the model for Gary Trudeau's balding "Uncle Duke" in the comic strip "Doonerbury." He was portrayed on screen by Bill Murray in "Where The Buffalo Rode" and Johnny Depp in a film adaptation of "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas."



Hunter S. Thompson

Musical actor John Raitt dead at 88

BY BOB THOMAS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Though in his later years he joked that he had become best known as singer Bonnie Raitt's father, John Raitt was famous in his own right as the robust baritone who lived most musically such as "Carousel" and "The Pajama Game."

Raitt died Sunday of complications from pneumonia at his Pacific Palisades home, said his manager, James Fitzgerald. Raitt was 88.

He had become well known on the West Coast for his handsome presence and ringing voice when in 1944 he was invited to New

York to try out for the role of Curly in the road company of "Oklahoma!" He was rushed to the St. James Theater and an audition with Oscar Hammerstein II and Richard Rodgers.

In 1955, Raitt recalled: "I hadn't sung since California, so I said, 'Do you mind if I warm up?' I sang Figaro's aria from 'The Barber of Seville.' Then I sang all of Curly's songs."

There was silence when he finished. Raitt was hired for the Chicago company of "Oklahoma!"

Rodgers and Hammerstein had been working on their second collaboration, "Carousel," and they chose Raitt for the role of the doomed hero Billy Bigelow.

Raitt's star status on Broadway was assured, and after the long run in "Carousel" he appeared in "Milk and Honey," "Three Wishes for Jamie" and "Carnival in Flanders." He landed a big crossover to film until "The Pajama Game" in 1954.

"The Pajama Game" became a successful movie with Raitt and Doris Day. Despite his good notices, it was Raitt's only starring movie.

In his later years, Raitt was overshadowed by the fame of his blues-singing daughter.

He delighted in her success and approved of her campaigning for civil rights, peace and other causes. "She used to be known as John Raitt's daughter, now I'm known as Bonnie Raitt's father," he observed.

After she had become a big attraction in pop music, they sometimes appeared together, singing

"Blowing Away" and his "Hey, There." "He treats every show with equal thrill and passion," Bonnie Raitt once said. "He puts the same into it no matter whether it's a charity breakfast for 30 people or opening night of a Broadway show."



Actor and singer John Raitt with daughter, blues singer Bonnie Raitt, in March 2000.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Feb. 22)	103.00
South Korean won (Feb. 19)	999.00
Euro costs (Feb. 22)	\$1.9481
Dollar buys (Feb. 22)	0.7462
British pound (Feb. 22)	\$1.94

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.9481
Canada (Dollar)	1.2316
Denmark (Krone)	5.7032
Egypt (Pound)	1.8116
Euro	\$1.9481
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.796
Hungary (Forint)	185.91
Iceland (Krona)	61.795
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.919
Japan (Yen)	105.64
Saudi (Rial)	3.936
Norway (Krone)	6.4348
Philippines (Peso)	54.69
Saudi (Rial)	2.919
Switzerland (Dollar)	1.9367
South Korea (Won)	9.907
Switzerland (Franc)	1.9367
Taiwan (New Dollar)	1.4045

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-military exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are international buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc Close	
Gold	\$427.10
Silver	\$7.413

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.50
Federal funds market rate	2.50
3-month T-bill	4.00
30-year bond	4.65

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Cash rewards

The Associated Press

Cash is king, goes the maxim, and a new survey suggests that is especially true for credit card reward programs.

Consumers are far more interested in cash back and other such monetary rebates than flying miles are, the survey found. They are enamored of a first-class airline upgrade or a free

trip from reward points.

More than 65 percent of those surveyed said cash back was preferable to free travel (34 percent) or special benefits or upgrades (33 percent).

The survey involved 1,000 people in an October online survey conducted by Maritz. Loyalty Marketing, a part of St. Louis-based Maritz Inc.



Sandra Dee in 1957

In 1962's 'Tammy and the Doctor'

Sandra Dee, idol, actress, dies at 62

BY LAURA WIDES
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sandra Dee, who at the height of her fame in the 1960s was arguably the biggest female teen idol of her time, has died, leaving a legacy of film roles that includes "Gidget" and "Tammy and the Doctor."

"She was Gidget, and she was Tammy, and for a time she was young America's ideal," film historian Leonard Maltin once said of her. Dee later married another pop icon, singer Bobby Darin.

Dee died of complications Sunday morning from kidney disease at the Los Robles Hospital & Medical Center in Thousand Oaks, her family said. She was 62.

Steve Blauner, a longtime family friend who represents Darin's estate, said Dee had been hospitalized for nearly two weeks. She had been on dialysis for about four years, Blauner said. "She didn't have a bad bone in her body," he said. "When she was a big star in the pictures and a top five at the box office, she treated the grip the exact same way she treated the head of the studio. She meant it. She wasn't phony."

With her squeaky-clean image

and girl-next-door charm, Universal Studios cast Dee mostly in teen movies such as "The Reluctant Debutante," "The Restless Years," "Tammy Tell Me True" and "Take Her, She's Mine."

Occasionally, she landed secondary roles in more mature films, such as "Imitation of Life," "A Portrait in Black" and "Romanoff and Juliet." Dee later made an independent film "Rosie" (1968), starring with Rosalind Russell, but she never recaptured the stardom of her teenage years.

In 1960, Dee married Darin in Elizabeth, N.J., following a one-month courtship. A son, Dodd Mitchell, was born the following year.

Her name was resurrected in 1978 with the film "Grease," which featured the song "Look At Me, I'm Sandra Dee" that mocked her wholesomeness. But Dee didn't mind, Blauner said.

"She always had a big laugh about it. She had a great sense of humor."

Blauner said her favorite films were the ones she made with Darin, adding that the singer remained the love of her life despite their divorce. Darin, who had rheumatic fever as a child, died following heart surgery in 1973.

WEDNESDAY EVENING / FEBRUARY 23, 2005

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P #ESPNews (5:46) O'Grath Winfrey (CC)	Pacific Report (3:35) Guiding Light (CC)	Arrested Development (7:17) General Hospital (CC)	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (8:00) The Contender (CC)	Headline News (8:30) Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)	Latino News (9:00) The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (CC)	Latino News (9:00) The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (CC)	Latino News (9:00) The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (CC)	Latino News (9:00) The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (CC)	Latino News (9:00) The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (CC)	Latino News (9:00) The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (CC)
8	NEWS Headline with Chris Matthews	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	Fox and Friends First	Fox and Friends	Fox and Friends	Fox and Friends	Fox and Friends	Fox and Friends	Fox and Friends	Fox and Friends	Fox and Friends	Fox and Friends
9	SPORTS #5:00 NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced (Taped)	#SportsCenter	#NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced (Taped)	#SportsCenter	#NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced (Taped)	#SportsCenter	#NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced (Taped)	#SportsCenter	#NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced (Taped)	#SportsCenter	#NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced (Taped)	#SportsCenter
10	SPECT The Simpsons (6:00) The Simpsons (6:00) The Simpsons (6:00) The Simpsons	Everybody Loves Raymond (6:30) Everybody Loves Raymond (6:30) Everybody Loves Raymond	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)
11	AFN-FM Family Obedience (6:00) Family Obedience (6:00) Family Obedience	Rugrats Plaza (6:30) Rugrats Plaza (6:30) Rugrats Plaza	Even Stevens (6:30) Even Stevens (6:30) Even Stevens	Kenan & Kel (6:30) Kenan & Kel (6:30) Kenan & Kel	Gilmore Girls (CC)	Gilmore Girls (CC)	Gilmore Girls (CC)	Gilmore Girls (CC)	Gilmore Girls (CC)	Gilmore Girls (CC)	Gilmore Girls (CC)	Gilmore Girls (CC)
12	TM #5:00 The Cutting Edge (6:00) The Cutting Edge (6:00) The Cutting Edge	Entertainment Tonight (6:00) Entertainment Tonight (6:00) Entertainment Tonight	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)
24	PBS Dragon Tales (6:00) Dragon Tales (6:00) Dragon Tales	Zoom! (6:00) Zoom! (6:00) Zoom!	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	Antiques Roadshow (6:00) Antiques Roadshow (6:00) Antiques Roadshow	Scientific American Frontiers (6:00) Scientific American Frontiers (6:00) Scientific American Frontiers	Slavery and the Making of America (6:00) Slavery and the Making of America (6:00) Slavery and the Making of America	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)
25	SHOW #5:00 The Simpsons (6:00) The Simpsons (6:00) The Simpsons	Everybody Loves Raymond (6:30) Everybody Loves Raymond (6:30) Everybody Loves Raymond	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC)
26	A&E City Confidential (6:00) City Confidential (6:00) City Confidential	Zoom! (6:00) Zoom! (6:00) Zoom!	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	Antiques Roadshow (6:00) Antiques Roadshow (6:00) Antiques Roadshow	Scientific American Frontiers (6:00) Scientific American Frontiers (6:00) Scientific American Frontiers	Slavery and the Making of America (6:00) Slavery and the Making of America (6:00) Slavery and the Making of America	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (N)
28	DISC To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
29	TFC (1:15) Patrol World	Yes, Yes Show	Yes, Yes Show	Yes, Yes Show	Yes, Yes Show	Yes, Yes Show	Yes, Yes Show	Yes, Yes Show	Yes, Yes Show	Yes, Yes Show	Yes, Yes Show	Yes, Yes Show
30	CNN+ Low Dobs Tonight	CNN Daybreak	CNN Daybreak	CNN Daybreak	CNN Daybreak	CNN Daybreak	CNN Daybreak	CNN Daybreak	CNN Daybreak	CNN Daybreak	CNN Daybreak	CNN Daybreak
31	GOLF #4:30 PGA Golf Nationwide Tour - Jacob's Creek Open - Final Round	#Golf Central	#Golf Channel America	#Golf With Style	#Golf Academy Live	#Golf Academy Live	#Golf Academy Live	#Golf Academy Live	#Golf Academy Live	#Golf Academy Live	#Golf Academy Live	#Golf Academy Live
32	TLC In a Fix 'Waldorf School' Turning two powerplants into ceramics and wood working rooms (N)	While You Were Out 'Norkin' Dining Dynasty' Telling us to surprise her husband's bad habits (N)	While You Were Out 'Norkin' Dining Dynasty' Telling us to surprise her husband's bad habits (N)	While You Were Out 'Norkin' Dining Dynasty' Telling us to surprise her husband's bad habits (N)	While You Were Out 'Norkin' Dining Dynasty' Telling us to surprise her husband's bad habits (N)	While You Were Out 'Norkin' Dining Dynasty' Telling us to surprise her husband's bad habits (N)	While You Were Out 'Norkin' Dining Dynasty' Telling us to surprise her husband's bad habits (N)	While You Were Out 'Norkin' Dining Dynasty' Telling us to surprise her husband's bad habits (N)	While You Were Out 'Norkin' Dining Dynasty' Telling us to surprise her husband's bad habits (N)	While You Were Out 'Norkin' Dining Dynasty' Telling us to surprise her husband's bad habits (N)	While You Were Out 'Norkin' Dining Dynasty' Telling us to surprise her husband's bad habits (N)	While You Were Out 'Norkin' Dining Dynasty' Telling us to surprise her husband's bad habits (N)
34	TOON The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience 'Guanay' Little-known creatures are celebrated for their jumps in kitchen (CC)
36	COM Crunk Yankers (6:00) Crunk Yankers (6:00) Crunk Yankers	South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family	South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family	South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family	South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family	South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family	South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family	South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family	South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family	South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family	South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family	South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family (6:00) South Park & Family
40	NOCA Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)	Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)	Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)	Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)	Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)	Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)	Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)	Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)	Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)	Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)	Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)	Chasing Time 'Sin' (CC)
42	SPKE The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)	The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)	The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)	The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)	The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)	The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)	The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)	The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)	The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)	The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)	The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)	The Hoop Life 'Big Is Greek' to the Curly challenges his contract (CC)
44	BET The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)	The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)	The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)	The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)	The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)	The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)	The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)	The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)	The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)	The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)	The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)	The Parkers 'Big Is Beautiful' (CC)
46	COURT NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)	NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)	NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)	NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)	NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)	NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)	NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)	NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)	NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)	NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)	NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)	NYPD Blue 'Baby Love' The precinct goes to work when a baby goes missing (CC)
48	STR-UD The Simpsons (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)
50	LIFE The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)	The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)	The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)	The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)	The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)	The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)	The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)	The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)	The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)	The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)	The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)	The Family Stranger (2001, Drama)
51	ABC4F #5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)	#5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)	#5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)	#5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)	#5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)	#5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)	#5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)	#5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)	#5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)	#5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)	#5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)	#5:00 'Hope Floats' (1998, R)
53	HIST Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)	Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)	Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)	Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)	Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)	Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)	Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)	Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)	Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)	Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)	Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)	Modern Marvels 'NASCAR Tech' The science behind NASCAR that enables cars to race at 200 mph (CC)
57	STR-IM #5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)	#5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)	#5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)	#5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)	#5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)	#5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)	#5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)	#5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)	#5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)	#5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)	#5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)	#5:00 'Rocky II' (1979, PG)
58	ADV 1 Video Diary	Video Diary	Video Diary	Video Diary	Video Diary	Video Diary	Video Diary	Video Diary	Video Diary	Video Diary	Video Diary	Video Diary
59	MTV Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica
60	NICK U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick	U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick	U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick	U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick	U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick	U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick	U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick	U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick	U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick	U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick	U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick	U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick (6:00) U-Pick

JAPAN TV

Morning

10:25 News Drama: Sangbong Let's Go To School O.S.T. (4)

Afternoon

12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (12)

1:30 U.S. Movie (1995): The Zone (2:00)(12)

Evening News (6)

7:00 News (13)

7:30 Love Over Beer (3)(9)

7:55 Simple Rules (13)

8:00 Ultimate Fighting K-1 World Max (6)

10:00 News (11)

10:00 America's Top 40 (42)

2:14 Italian Movie (1961): La Viaccia (2:08)(4)

2:34 TV Series: Bull (6)

Morning

6:15 World News

7:15 World News

8:15 World News

9:15 World News

10:15 World News

11:15 CNN News

12:15 ABC News

1:15 NewsHour

3:15 CNN News

4:15 World News

5:15 World News

6:15 News Today

7:15 News Today

8:15 News Today

9:15 News Today

10:15 News Today

11:15 News Today

1:15 NBA: Seattle SuperSonics vs. Houston

2:15 NBA: Seattle SuperSonics vs. Houston

3:15 NBA: Seattle SuperSonics vs. Houston

4:15 NBA: Seattle SuperSonics vs. Houston

5:15 NBA: Seattle SuperSonics vs. Houston

6:15 NBA: Seattle SuperSonics vs. Houston

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4:15 NBA: Seattle SuperSonics vs. Houston

5:15 NBA: Seattle SuperSonics vs. Houston

6:15 NBA: Seattle SuperSonics vs. Houston

JAPAN TV-BS11

Morning

10:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

11:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

12:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

1:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

2:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

3:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

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11:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

12:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

1:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

2:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

3:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

4:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

5:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

6:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

7:00 Classical Music: Dmitri Horvostsky

OPINION

Dean's gaffe hurts standing with party base

Liberals were thrilled when Howard Dean was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee. They think the former Vermont governor has eased Democrats out of the political wilderness. Conservative Republicans were thrilled, too. They think he will plunge Democrats further into it.

Jack Kelly

Only rarely has a party chairman had much impact. Dean will have more than most, because there are few elected Democrats to share the spotlight with him. And Dean is energetic and a good quote, something few would say about Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the Democratic leader in the Senate, or Nancy Pelosi of California, the Democratic leader in the House.

The initial success of Dean's presidential candidacy moved the Democratic Party to the left, which makes him an odd choice to recapture the center.

Journalists have started to describe Dean as a closet moderate, because he balanced the state budget. But the governor of Vermont — like the governor of virtually every other state — is constitutionally obligated to submit balanced budgets, and Dean typically did so by raising taxes. This makes him a "moderate" only in the parallel universe most journalists inhabit.

Two days after Dean's inauguration, Curtis Adams, a county commissioner in Tennessee, switched to the GOP, citing Dean as the reason. "He'll take the [Democratic] party down all the way," Adams told reporters.

A day after that, the senior black Democrat in the House of Representatives joined Republicans in criticizing Dean for making a racially insensitive remark.

While meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus, Dean said: "You think the Republicans could get this many people of color in a single room? Only if they had the hotel staff in here."

This drew predictable howls of outrage from Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, former Oklahoma Rep. J.C. Watts Jr. and other prominent black Republicans. But they were joined by Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., who said Dean should apologize if he offended anybody by suggesting blacks usually work as servants.

Dean was not exactly a favorite of African-Americans when he ran for president, and his joke isn't playing well with blacks who were miffed by the vituperative opposition of prominent Democrats to the nomination of Condoleezza Rice to be secretary of state.

Another bone of contention is Social Security reform, which [Democratic-friendly] pollster John Zogby said is popular with minorities.

"The Democrats are very busy turning 48 percent of the vote into free fall, and that's not easy to do," Zogby said.

"Free fall" sounds like hyperbole to me. As long as greed, stupidity and cowardice remain a part of the human condition, there will be a constituency for Democrats. But by lurching left under a lily-white limousine liberal with diarrhea of the mouth, the Democrats seem set on a course more likely to diminish than to expand their share of the vote in 2006 and beyond.

Republican prospects in 2006 and beyond will be shaped primarily by how Americans view the job President Bush is



doing. If the economy is strong and the war on terror is going well, GOP prospects will be bright. If not, then the Democrats — for all their missteps — will be competitive.

But the GOP future also will be shaped by political choices Republicans make. Democrats are competitive in national elections primarily because of the stranglehold they have on the black vote. If Republicans could get 15 percent of the black vote, Democrats could never again win the presidency. If Republicans could get 20 percent of the black vote, the very existence of the Democratic Party would be in doubt.

According to Washington gossip, President Bush has begun referring to Condi Rice in private as "44," as in the 44th pres-

ident. Bush probably is joking, but it would be a good thing for the GOP if he isn't. The best way to blunt a Hillary Clinton candidacy would be for the Republicans to nominate a woman of their own. Could Condi Rice get one black vote in six? Almost certainly. One black vote in five? Perhaps.

Movement already is under way. The Columbus Dispatch reported Feb. 20 that Walter Cates, one of the most prominent black Democrats in that Ohio city, has switched to the GOP. With a Condi Rice candidacy, what is now a trickle could become a river, if not a flood.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the state in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Today's kids don't know what love's got to do with it

BY SUSANNA RODELL

The Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette

I'm not worried about the amount of sex that's floating around the American media. I'm worried about the kind of sex that's out there. I blame the religious right.

What? I can hear you exclaim. Those guys are the ones making the loudest noises about obscenity. They're the ones calling for crackdowns on nasty talk radio and the sex stories. They're the ones trying to protect our children! Bear with me.

Recent analyses of who's watching the nasty reality TV series have turned up some interesting information. Viewership of these shows is highest in the so-called Red States, the ones that supposedly went to the Republicans and whose voters made their decisions on the basis of morality.

It makes sense to me. If you think sex is nasty, you're going to watch, with lurid fascination, material that supports that view. What makes me sad is that if you don't think sex is necessarily nasty, that it can be sweet and comforting and an exercise in trust, what do you have to look at? Where do you go? Not to the American media, that's for sure.

I sometimes wonder if this is the reason there's a resurgence now in popularity for the old standards, with guys like Tony Bennett making comebacks and hipsters like Elvis Costello recording them. My 18-year-old is into Frank Sinatra big time, and her favorite song in high school was "They Can't Take That Away From Me."

Much of the time, I feel sorry for my

kids. Their sexuality has blossomed in the midst of a culture whose icons are Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake and Eminem. The icons of my generation included Julie Christie and Diana Ross, neither of them vamps but each of them, in her own much more subtle way, very sexy.

What is particularly interesting now is watching my generation's fashion statements reinterpreted. The shapes are the same: the low-cut, flared jeans, the wispy tops, the peasant touches.

What's gone, whether it's in the fashions or the entertainment itself, is any sense of restraint. You might find this amusing coming from a child of the '60s, but I stand by it. There was some kind of awareness, for

instance, that if you were female and you weighed more than 160 pounds, the low-rise-jeans-bare-midriff look was probably not for you. You went for the flowing peasant skirts instead.

Sex was there, oh, it certainly was, and it wasn't always the right kind in the right place at the right time.

But you could still be sweet about it. And it could be sweetly depicted, whether in a Grateful Dead song or in movies such as "A Man and a Woman" or "Doctor Zhivago." Even in the ones that scripted clearly dysfunctional or exploitive relationships, such as "Alfie" or "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" there was a built-in recognition: This is not how it's supposed to be. It can be better. There can be love.

I'm not at all sure kids are getting that message now, and it worries me a lot. The link between sex and emotion and vulnerability seems to have been lost entirely, forced into some new closet where young people are forced to hide with each other.

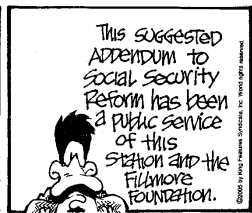
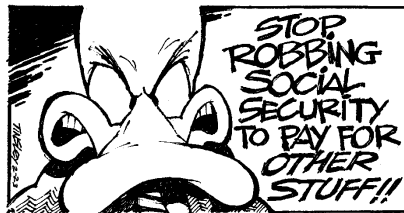
I don't believe the kids themselves are any less vulnerable, silly or prone to making potentially life-damaging mistakes. But the images they have to choose from seem, perhaps backhandedly, to confirm the religious right's intolerance for anything sexual. It seems the ground is shrinking where they can meet as humans and look at their sexuality with anything more complex than a leer.

I'm sad for them.

Susanna Rodell is editorial-page editor of The Charleston Gazette.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Contract agreement

PA PHILADELPHIA — Temple University and its professors' union reached tentative agreement on a four-year contract that would increase the faculty pay package by 15.22 percent. In addition, benefits would be available for domestic partners, the sabbatical program would expand, and pension benefits would be added for non-tenure track faculty such as lecturers. The 1,165 faculty members vote on the agreement this week.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Lake Michigan mess

IL CHICAGO — Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn assailed "pinheads in Washington" for a proposed federal rule change that would allow cities to dump more untreated sewage into Lake Michigan. The proposal would let cities with outdated sewage treatment systems mix treated and untreated sewage during wet weather. Quinn said that would mean more beach closures and tainted drinking water.

Gay marriage ban

TN NASHVILLE — A House committee approved a proposed constitutional ban on gay marriages, moving it toward debate by the full chamber. The approval came one day after a Senate committee passed it. The measure passed last year by a simple majority and must gain two-thirds approval in the Legislature this session to appear before voters in 2006.

Woman charged in hoax

KS COLUMBUS — Cherokee County prosecutor Michael Goodrich says he wants to dismiss felony charges against Birdie Jo Hoaks, 34, accused of posing as a 13-year-old boy to enroll in middle school. The 5-foot-tall, 140-pound woman met with a special education teacher for four days before inconsistencies in her story revealed the hoax. Charges against her twin sister also would be dropped.

Union workers march

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Union workers rallied at the Capitol and demanded that lawmakers stop trying to repeal a law requiring some Oklahoma cities to allow municipal workers to bargain collectively.

Rep. Bill Case, who wrote the repeal bill, argues the collective bargaining statute could lead to a decline in services and impose an unfunded mandate on local governments.

SUV driver arrested

VT WINOOSKI — A Burlington man is facing drunken-driving charges that he crashed his sport utility vehicle into a multi-family house seconds after he swerved to avoid three pedestrians, police said.

Viktor Ishkhanyan, 48, was arrested by police on the charge of driving under the influence at the time of the accident, Lt. R.J. Sheehan said.

Ishkhanyan's blood alcohol level was 0.299 percent, more than three times the state's 0.08 percent legal limit, Sheehan said.

Ishkhanyan was driving north on Weaver Street when he tried to

swerve around a van. Officer Paul Townsend said. He then drove across the street and onto the sidewalk, where three adults were walking. Ishkhanyan jerked the car back onto the road to avoid the pedestrians and instead crashed through a chain-link fence and into the corner of a house, Townsend said.

Sheehan said Ishkhanyan, a Russian native with limited English skills, did not discuss the accident with him after he was taken into custody.

Purging Jim Crow laws

WV CHARLESTON — Delegates introduced a bill to remove from state law the few remaining passages of so-called Jim Crow laws that were aimed at separating blacks and whites.

Delegate Sharon Spencer, 57, who is white, co-sponsored the measure with the Legislature's only two black members, Democrat delegates Charlene Marshall and Cliff Moore — whose father, Ernest Moore, began the process of purging the law books of racist language during his 12 terms in the House.

"I have a feeling that it's going to pass without any trouble at all," the younger Moore said. "They know this is the right thing to do."



New wave

Caftin Bedford models her own design titled "All Tied Up" during the fifth annual Wearable Art Extravaganza at Centennial Hall, in Juneau, Alaska. The dress, made entirely of ties, was one of 30 entered into the art show hosted by the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council.

The bill targets a section of the law governing county school boards that speaks of the ratio of "Negro" assistant superintendents to black teachers.

It also targets a reference to the defunct "Negro board of education" in a section addressing the historically black Bluefield State College.

Spencer said a Yale professor found the long-forgotten language during a research project, and informed state lawmakers.

It's almost official

VA RICHMOND — Gov. Mark Warner will likely sign legislation making the Virginia big-eared bat the commonwealth's official bat, his spokeswoman said. Among Virginia's other official symbols: milk (state beverage), the brook trout (state fish), and the Tiger swallowtail butterfly (state insect).

Courteous inmate

OH CANTON — An inmate released by mistake by jail officials in Ohio arranged his own way back to the prison in Colorado where he still has two more years to serve. He even called to say he was on his way.

Stark County jailers let Ricky Lee Claycomb go after he was acquitted of a rape charge he had been brought to Ohio from Colorado to face. Jail officials apparently never saw the paperwork to return him to the prison.

"We don't know exactly what happened," Sheriff Tim Swanson said.

Claycomb, 37, called his mother in Henderson, Colo.

"He told them at the jail that he was supposed to be taken back to Colorado," said his mother, Jill Claycomb. "He said they told him he was done in Canton and it was his problem to get back."

She sent him money for a bus ticket. After the two-day trip to Colorado, Claycomb visited her long enough to have oatmeal and peaches for breakfast and pizza for lunch, and then his brother drove him to Colorado's Fremont Correctional Facility in Canon City.

Abstinence in sin city?

NV LAS VEGAS — Yvette Thomas is betting that abstinence sells in sin city.

Her wholesome wares stood out at MAGIC Marketplace, an intimate apparel trade show at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Thomas quietly hawked her company's T-shirts and panties adorned with slogans such as "Virginity Lane: Exit When Married" and "No vows, no sex," amid booths sponsored by the likes of Playboy and Pamela Anderson.

"We have so much of the opposite out there, sometimes we have to remind ourselves what our values are," Thomas said. "A number of people have walked by and said, 'I like your message.'"

Thomas launched Wait Wear five years ago. Without prior fashion experience, she slowly built her Las Angeles-based company through online sales and displays at youth events.

This week marks Wait Wear's first appearance at MAGIC Marketplace, which draws 93,000 visitors and \$129.7 million in nongambling revenue to Las Vegas.



Search and rescue

End Fire Department fire engine driver Andy Wall uses an oxygen mask to aid a dog named Lucky, who was rescued from a burning house in Enid, Okla. Lucky had to be carried out from his home.



Fish story

Tony Bombe, of Orlando, Fla., lands a largemouth bass while fishing on Lake Lloyd in the infield of the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.



Young riders

Norma Ortiz, 13, a two-year member of the Las Mariposas Riding Club from El Paso, Texas, sits on her horse as she waits to take part in the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo parade which wound through downtown San Angelo, Texas.



Just hanging on tight

Luis Escudero gets a big jolt forward during his ride in the bareback contest at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.



Rolling waters

North Las Vegas roads flood causing a strain for weekend drivers on Grand Teton Drive near North Buffalo Drive.



Here kitty, kitty

A cat casts his shadow through a broken pane of glass on a barn window near Wilton, Iowa.



Don't look down

Climber Aidan Loehr works his way up the 200-foot tall Hung Jury, a frozen waterfall in Keystone Canyon outside of Valdez, Alaska, during the annual Valdez Ice Climbing Festival.

GOP says no to funds

OR SALEM — The Senate Republican Caucus announced it will no longer accept campaign contributions during the legislative session. It's calling on Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski and other elected officials to do the same. Senate Democrats, House Democrats and House Republicans have all vowed not to accept campaign contributions during this year's session.

Insurance claims drop

MA LAWRENCE — Auto accident claims are down significantly in Lawrence and several other Merrimack Valley communities after a 16-month crackdown on auto insurance fraud, according to an industry report.

The Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts forecasts \$25 million in savings for 2004 in Lawrence alone, based on lower claims for personal injury, property damages and other claims for the first nine months of last year, compared with the same period in 2003.

Claims also were down in nearby Andover, North Andover, Methuen and Haverhill, but no savings estimate was given.

Scores of people were arrested in the crackdown on fraudulent accident reports in Lawrence after a 65-year-old woman was killed in 2003 in a staged crash that police said she helped arrange.

Accident reports filed with police have declined as much as 40 percent, and the downturn has continued for more than a year.

Authorities said the latest numbers indicate a sharp decline in phony accidents because they result in many more injury claims than real ones, typically eight injury claims for a two-car fake collision.

Bird-feeder ban

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The California Department of Fish and Game is asking Northern California residents to remove their bird feeders for at least a month to slow the spread of an avian disease.

Salmonellosis has killed a number of pine siskins, small brown streaked birds with yellow patches on their wings and tails. The birds live primarily in wooded areas, and dead birds have been found throughout the forested areas of Northern California, from Grass Valley to Eureka.

While it is unlikely humans would contract the disease, pets could, especially if they are exposed to fecal matter below feeders, officials said.

Birds contract the disease from each other, most often by eating fecal-contaminated food. But they also can become sick by sticking their heads in tube feeders where their eyes come in contact with the feeder itself.

\$560,000 settlement

FL KEY WEST — A shipping company has agreed to pay more than \$560,000 to settle claims

that its freighter damaged a protected coral reef in the Florida Keys, officials said.

The freighter, MSC Diego, was cited in 2002 for illegally anchoring in the National Marine Sanctuary. Biologists said its anchor and chain overturned more than 1,000 coral colonies and crushed others in an area about the size of an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

Mediterranean Shipping Co. and its insurer will reimburse the government \$100,000 for the damage and related costs, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. The companies will also pay \$465,796 to monitor and restore the reef.

The sanctuary covers 2,900 square nautical miles of coral reefs, sea-grass meadows and shorelines.

Phony voter guilty

OH DEFAENCE — A man pleaded guilty to charges he tried to phony voter registration cards in the names of Mary Poppins, Dick Tracy, Michael Jordan and George Foreman.

Chad Staton, 22, faces up to a year in prison and \$2,500 fine on each of 10 counts of false registration at his sentencing April 13.

Officials said Staton had fraudulently filled out more than 100 forms.

Psychiatric patient dies

TX HOUSTON — A 52-year-old psychiatric patient who had a heart ailment died after Harris County constables shocked him with a stun gun, authorities said.

The two deputies went to the man's mother's home to serve a mental health commitment warrant, Chief Deputy J.C. Mosier said. They used the Taser after the man resisted their efforts to take him away.

The man continued to struggle with the deputies, but he then started having trouble breathing. He was taken by ambulance to a hospital where he later died.

The deputies knew the man had health problems but were unaware of his heart ailment, Mosier said.

"We would have handled it a lot different if we would have had better information," he said.

Here's the ticket

IN SHELBYVILLE — Karrie Jeremiah pulled a discarded lottery ticket from a restaurant trash can and hit the jackpot.

Two other people had purchased the \$3 Hoosier Lottery scratch-off ticket last week at El Chapparral Cafe. When a clerk at the downtown cafe told them it wasn't the \$40 winner they were hoping for, they threw it away, lottery officials said.

It wasn't a \$40 winner — it was a \$100,000 winner.

Jeremiah said she wondered whether the numbers were completely checked before the ticket was tossed.

"Who would ever throw this ticket in the trash knowing it was a \$100,000 hit?" she said.

Stories and photos from news wires

Horoscope

It's one of the tamest full moons we've had in seasons. All of the werewolves are inside doing their taxes — ferociously, of course. Use the lunar energy to be wildly productive on your own daunting project — impressive productivity occurs now that all information is known, all resources are available, and all synapses in the brain are firing.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(February 25). This is your year to be pro-active! Don't wait until life pushes you to make a change. It's time to thrive instead of just survive. Steps toward a goal in the next seven weeks lead to meetings with people who will be a supportive resource for years to come. A fabulous business move is featured in April. Love signs are Leo and Scorpio.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You see an example of greatness and take note of the substantial difference between mediocrity and excellence. On the personal side, there are rumors going around, and you want to clear things up — get it from the source.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A work situation plays out like a slow-paced poker game, and you're enjoying every nuance. Be careful not to give too much away with your "tell." If you're not completely in control, someone will call your bluff.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A scatter-shot approach to scheduling knocks down a few obstacles, but in order to make real progress, you'll have to get focused! Take an hour or two to write in your journal and plan things out. It's actually time efficient.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Too many possessions could be a problem, distracting you from what you really care about and sucking energy better spent on nurturing yourself or others. Sell it on eBay or the local free-ad weekly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Flirty fun continues. Making someone

work harder to get to know you actually works in your favor. A seemingly minor decision has a major impact — be thoughtful. Curb the urge to splurge — what you're after money can't buy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Though you are an in-spired shopper now, too much emphasis on materialism is a danger. Put people first, and you'll get the best deal. Be careful not to give the wrong impression to someone who doesn't know you well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Friendly competitions and discussions have a way of escalating into something passionate. Take nothing for granted in understanding those you love — let them express it their way. A Pisces has a lucky tip.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Just because something happened once doesn't mean it will happen again. Besides, breaking out of old patterns is your specialty! You'll do well with tests and competitions that involve many people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Attitude is everything. With a little introspection and a few tweaks, your attitude will be perfect for the job you need to do. You're being evaluated even when you think you're alone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

The space probe Cassini has been orbiting the rings of your planet, Saturn, gathering data about this mysterious, magnificent luminary. Someone is orbiting you much in the same way. How flattering!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Someone thrives under your tutelage. And by teaching others, you train yourself to be a true master. Return what you borrowed, or there may be a penalty. Family time is magical tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You're in a growth sprint in regard to work. Attend conferences or anything related to learning more about your industry. Friends need you tonight, but giving a little could sign you up for a lot.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



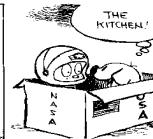
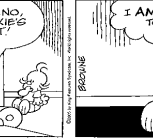
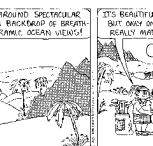
Beetle Bailey



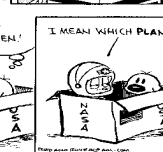
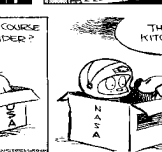
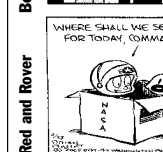
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



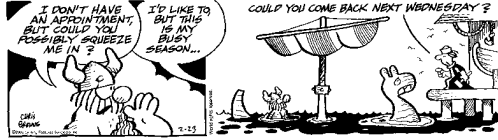
Blondie



Dilbert



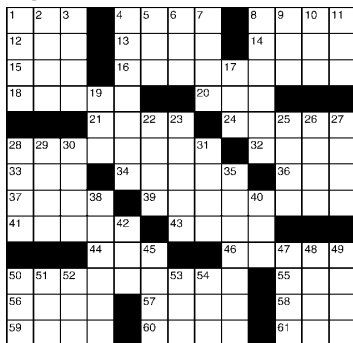
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Run off at the mouth
- 4 Simoleons
- 8 Entreaty
- 12 Wish otherwise
- 13 Sheltered
- 14 Be in charge of
- 15 Anger
- 16 Captain's right
- 18 Correspond
- 20 Chignon
- 21 Nuisance
- 24 Little devil
- 28 Lucas classic
- 32 Withered
- 33 Lubricant
- 34 Berate
- 36 Just out
- 37 Play a trumpet
- 39 Carmichael tune
- 41 Fulton's power
- 43 Took off
- 44 Frito —
- 46 Condition
- 50 Cohort of Barbara Walters
- 55 Through
- 56 Lama territory
- 57 Symbol of servitude
- 58 Switch positions
- 59 Sweet potatoes
- 60 Finished
- 61 Method

Down

- 1 Bleak
- 2 Atmosphere
- 3 Borscht base
- 4 Off-roasted nuts
- 5 Ht.
- 6 Vast expanse
- 7 Flapjack enhancer
- 8 Telephone supply
- 9 Actress Thompson
- 10 Corn spike
- 11 Do arithmetic
- 17 Al Bundy's sona
- 19 Lifesaving technique, for short
- 22 Pouches
- 23 Jogs
- 25 Carte
- 26 Raw rocks
- 27 Salamander
- 28 Bawls
- 29 Pinball no-no
- 30 Lotion additive
- 31 Rebuff a masher
- 35 Bureau
- 38 Arctic beast
- 40 Banned insecticide
- 42 Army rank (Abbr.)
- 45 Vacillate
- 47 Acknowledge
- 48 Fey of "SNL"
- 49 Relaxed
- 50 Mole, maybe
- 51 Afternoon affair
- 52 Upper limb
- 53 Thanksgiving abbr.
- 54 — out a living

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-23

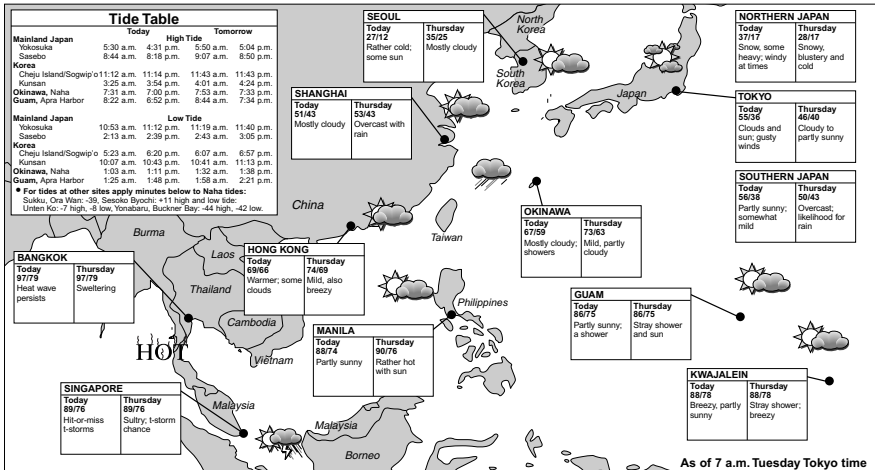
CRYPTOQUIP

FZ TE FITOFTE SJPZ DYI
APBN QTK, F MBPVWP
JP SYWOK DFAP NYW T

MFRT JFV QFEK!
Yesterday's Cryptquip: ASSUMING A GIRL MISPLACED HER SHOPPING BAG, IT COULD BE SEEN AS A TOTE-ALL LOSS.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: R equals Z

The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics, provided
by AccuWeather.com ©2005

As of 7 a.m. Tuesday Tokyo time

Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Friday: Rain, high 55, low 47.
 Saturday: Partly sunny, high 49, low 33.

KADENA

Friday: Showers, high 71, low 59.
 Saturday: Showers, high 67, low 57.

SEOUL

Friday: Mostly sunny, high 32, low 8.
 Saturday: Partly sunny, high 27, low 14.

MANILA

Friday: Mostly sunny, high 92, low 76.
 Saturday: Partly sunny, high 90, low 76.

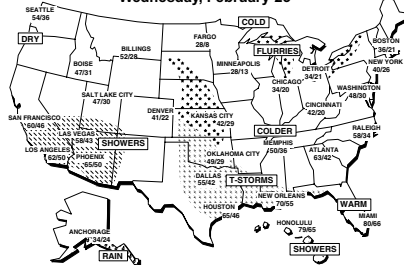
HAGATNA

Friday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 75.
 Saturday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 75.

Monday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	58/38	Los Angeles	60/52
Amarillo	68/37	Little Rock	78/46
Anchorage	36/24	Louisville	55/37
Ashville	60/42	Miami	79/64
Baltimore	52/35	Milwaukee	38/24
Birmingham	71/53	Nashville	66/42
Bismarck	33/10	New York	36/33
Boise	48/30	Omaha	39/28
Boston	32/28	Orlando	81/60
Brownsville	81/68	Philadelphia	41/34
Buffalo	37/28	Phoenix	68/54
Burlington	25/20	Pittsburgh	51/31
Charleston, SC	72/55	Portland, OR	58/34
Charlotte	60/48	Portland, ME	24/20
Cleveland	40/28	Salt Lake City	49/32
Columbus, OH	49/30	St. Louis	49/35
Duluth	22/8	San Antonio	83/58
El Paso	68/45	San Diego	64/54
Hartford	32/23	San Juan	82/70
Helena	39/12	Tampa	78/62
Indianapolis	44/33	Tulsa	59/39
Jacksonville	79/58	Washington, DC	56/40
Kansas City	47/32	Wichita	52/37

Wednesday, February 23



Scott wins rain-shortened Nissan Open in playoff

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Adam Scott made a 4-foot par putt on the 18th hole Monday morning to beat Chad Campbell in a sudden-death playoff in the Nissan Open, the first PGA Tour event in nine years to be cut to 36 holes.

The playoff came shortly after the final two rounds were canceled because of rain that saturated Riviera Country Club, leaving Scott and Campbell to play for the difference of \$386,000.

Scott earned \$864,000 and moved up to No. 7 in the world ranking, his highest spot. But because the tournament was only 36 holes, he will not get credit for an official victory.

"I don't feel like I played much golf this week," Scott said.

"I don't feel tired and drained like you normally do when you've been battling."

But he has his name on the trophy, thanks to his second crucial putt in as many days.

Scott finished off his second round Sunday with a 20-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole for a 5-under 66 that enabled him to join Campbell in the lead at 9-under 133.

Campbell shot 65 in the second round, but he finished on Friday.

Rain washed out play Saturday, and suspended play Sunday just as Campbell arrived at Riviera.

The last 36-hole winner on the PGA Tour was Michael Bradley in the 1996 Buick Challenge at Callaway Gardens, a tournament that no longer exists. He won in a five-way playoff.

Source: Redskins WR Coles tells Gibbs he wants out

First Rod Gardner, now Laveranese Coles. The Washington Redskins could lose both their top receivers after an unsatisfying

Sports briefs

season in coach Joe Gibbs' offense.

Coles has met with Gibbs twice to state his desire to leave the Redskins, including a forthright conversation the day after the season ended, an official within the league told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday. The Redskins, in turn, have told Coles they want him to have surgery on the chronic toe injury that has plagued him the last two seasons, a procedure that Coles has been reluctant to undergo, the source said.

Gibbs called reporters to Redskins Park on Monday to address the Coles situation, but the coach offered few details.

"I've had talks with him," Gibbs said. "Everything that we've discussed is going to be between me and him."

Coles' meetings with Gibbs were first reported by The Washington Post, but Gibbs said the Post's report that the meetings were likely to lead to Coles' release was "inaccurate."

"Hopefully something will work out good for him and good for us," Gibbs said.

Last month, the Redskins granted Gardner's request to seek a trade.

Coles had 90 catches for 950 yards for a career-low 10.6 yards a catch and only one touchdown in the Redskins' 6-10 season. The year before, under pass-oriented coach Steve Spurrier, Coles had 82 receptions for 1,204 yards and six touchdowns.

Carter, Rolle, Mason among six players cut by Titans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Receiver Derrick Mason and corner-



Tony Navarro, left foreground, caddy for Adam Scott of Australia, right, holds the umbrella at the 18th tee prior to Scott's playoff win over Chad Campbell, second from right, in the rain-shortened Nissan Open.

back Samari Rolle were among six players released Monday by the Tennessee Titans in an effort to cut up to \$27 million to get under the NFL salary cap.

In addition to Mason and Rolle, the Titans released starting defensive lineman Kevin Carter and right tackle Fred Miller. They also cut fullback Robert Holcombe and kicker Joe Nedney.

Mason led all NFL receivers last season with a career-high 96 catches for 1,168 yards and seven touchdowns. The eight-year veteran was the first player in franchise history to have four consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons.

Rolle, considered among the league's top cover cornerbacks, was arrested last week on a domestic assault charge. A Pro Bowl selection in 2000, Rolle played in 12 games last season before having surgery on his left knee. He had only one interception and 28 tackles.

Carter was the veteran on a very young defensive line last season. He played both end and tackle while mentoring the Titans' five draft picks. Miller is a nine-year veteran who started at right tackle the last five seasons for Tennessee.

Federation wants life ban for corrupt soccer referee

FRANKFURT, Germany — The German soccer federation has asked for a lifetime ban and a hefty fine for the referee who admitted fixing games.

The federation (DFB) filed charges in its sports court Monday against Robert Hoyzer, who admitted he was paid more than \$65,000 to manipulate games in the biggest German soccer corruption scandal in more than 30 years.

Hoyzer was arrested, along with three Croatian brothers sus-

pected of masterminding the scam. Berlin prosecutors are investigating 25 people, including 14 players and four referees, suspected of rigging at least 10 games, mostly in lower divisions.

The federation said the gravity of Hoyzer's "prose-driven" actions required a lifetime ban from soccer and \$65,000 fine.

Apart from soccer sanctions, Hoyzer faces up to 10 years in prison if charged and convicted of fraud.

Report: Sprinters implicate doctor in BALCO scandal

SAN FRANCISCO — Disgraced sprinter Kelli White, one of several athletes at the center of the BALCO scandal, claims a doctor diagnosed her with narcolepsy to cover up her use of a banned stimulant — even though she never had the sleep disorder, the San Francisco Chronicle reported on its Web site Monday.

The paper, quoting grand jury transcripts, also said world champion sprinter Tim Montgomery testified that Dr. Brian Goldman wrote a steroids prescription for him under a false name so it wouldn't be traceable.

White told the newspaper that Goldman publicly stated she had a sleep disorder, but that was part of a false story devised by Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative head Victor Conte. In August 2003, White tested positive for modafinil after winning gold medals in the 100- and 200-meter sprints during the World Track and Field Championships in Paris. Last year, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency suspended White from competition for two years.

According to White, within hours of testing positive, she phoned Conte, who told her to issue the false statement saying she took the drug for narcolepsy.

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STARS AND STRIPES

Redick, Duke rebound to knock off Demons

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — In the first and likely only start of his career, Patrick Davidson set the emotional tone for Duke. He handled Wake Forest guard Chris Paul on the opening possession, bumping him wildly before a foul was called.

He left the game after two minutes to a rousing ovation and got a warm embrace from Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski,

who left no doubts about how important this game was.

"It's something I'll never forget," Davidson said.

J.J. Redick was pretty memorable himself.

The junior guard scored a career-high 38 points after Coach K shook up the starting lineup, and reserve Lee Melchioni added 15 to lead the seventh-ranked Blue Devils past No. 5 Wake Forest 102-92 Sunday night.

Duke (19-4, 9-4 Atlantic Coast Conference), coming off consecutive losses for only the fourth time in the past eight seasons, had its way with the Demon Deacons in the second half.

After trailing by two at the break, the Blue Devils shot 61 percent in the final 20 minutes to reach their highest point total of the season.

"It was as good as our offense has looked all year, and it wasn't one guy or just me," Redick said. "It was everybody."

Chris Paul had 27 points and Trent Sehnert scored 17 for Wake Forest (22-4, 10-3), which fell out of a first-place tie with North Carolina.

Duke center Shelden Williams more than held his own in the matchup with Eric Williams, finishing with 12 points, nine rebounds and four blocks. And Melchioni, a junior who played very little during his first two seasons, came up with big play after big play when the Blue Devils needed it most.

He came in averaging only 6.8 points a game, but beat that total during a 90-second span of the second half. The left-handed swished a three-pointer for a five-point

lead, jumped in the passing lane for a steal that led to his own dunk, then spun in the paint for a short jumper.

"We freed up our defense as an offensive team," Melchioni said. "We really executed that."

On the other end, he drew a charge from Wake Forest guard Justin Gray, who went to the bench with his fourth foul with 14½ minutes left. Duke eventually went ahead 88-69 before the Deacons staged a furious rally to make the final respectable, getting within seven with 1:15 remaining.

The Blue Devils closed it out at the free throw line to win for only the third time in the past six games. They last lost three in a row to complete the 1995-96 season.

"It was the most competitive game we've been in in maybe a couple of years," Krzyzewski said. "Both teams just wanted it so badly. And they are just outstanding."

This one belonged to Redick, who hit his first six shots after starting the game with some unfamiliar teammates. He and Shelden Williams were with Reggie Love, Patrick Johnson and little-used Davidson, with Daniel Ewing, Sean Dockery and Shavlik Randolph sitting down.

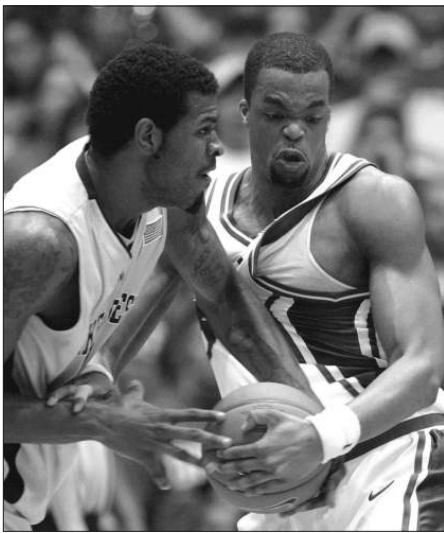
Krzyzewski went to the different lineup based on how his players performed in two practices since a loss at Virginia Tech, with Davidson drawing particular praise.

"He was kind of the captain of that team that started," Krzyzewski said. "I loved how he started us out. Some of the great things that happen in coaching are not just coaching Jason Williams or Grant Hill. They're coaching Patrick Davidson in a moment like that, and I'm glad I was able to share that moment with him."

No. 10 Arizona 91, Oregon St. 70: At Tucson, Ariz., Salim Stoudamire sank a school record nine three-pointers and scored 31 points in his final home game, as the Wildcats won their sixth in a row.

Channing Frye added 15 points and 11 rebounds as the Wildcats stayed alone in first place in the Pac-10. Stoudamire and Frye, both seniors in their last contest at McKale Center, left the game with 9:43 to play and Arizona leading 74-49.

Hassan Adams had 13 points and tied his



Duke's Shelden Williams, right, steals the ball from Wake Forest's Eric Williams during the first half at Cameron Indoor Stadium in Durham, N.C. on Sunday.

season high with 10 rebounds for the Wildcats (23-4, 13-2 Pac-10), who finished 15-1 at home. Ivan Radenovic added 10 points.

Nick DeWitz and Jason Fontenot scored 16, and David Lucas had 15 for the Beavers (14-11, 6-8), who fell to 0-7 on the road in the Pac-10.

Stoudamire, 9-for-14 on three-pointers, broke Jason Gardner's school record of eight, set against Kansas on Dec. 1, 2001.

A 55 percent three-point shooter this season — tied for first in Division I — Stoudamire was 5-for-5 on three's in the final 6:16 of the first half to put Arizona up 45-33 at the break.

No. 12 Louisville 84, Saint Louis 66: Taquean Dean made five three-pointers and host Louisville put together its best offensive performance to win.

Larry O'Bannon scored 17, Francisco Garcia added 13, and Ellis Myles finished with 13 points and 18 rebounds for the Cardinals (23-4, 11-2 Conference USA), who finished with their highest point total since a 105-69 win over Tulane on Jan. 29.

Louisville shot 30-for-61 for 49.2 percent, its best since converting 53.7 percent in a 99-52 win over Marquette on Jan. 26.

Izik Ohanion scored 18 to lead Saint Louis (7-18, 4-8), which played most of the game without Coach Brad Soderberg, who was ejected in the first half.

Calhoun, Dumars, Wilkins named finalists for Hall

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Big East coaching rivals Jim Calhoun and Bernard King, Maurice Cheeks, Adrian Dantley, Dennis Johnson, and former NBA stars Joe Dumars and Dominique Wilkins are finalists for election into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Calhoun is back for a second try, and Hubie Brown was named as a finalist for the first time, as a contributor to the game. The 16 finalists were announced Sunday, and this year's class will be presented April 4 at the NCAA Final Four in St. Louis.

Previous finalists Bernard King, Maurice Cheeks, Adrian Dantley, Dennis Johnson, and Chet Walker are back on the ballot this year.

Wilkins and Dumars are finalists in their first year of consideration, as are women's coaches Van Chancellor and Sue Gunter.

Italian coach Sandro Gamba, Brazilian player Hortencia Mar-

"There has been no greater recognition personally than to be told I am a Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame finalist."

Jim Calhoun

Connecticut basketball coach

car; player John Issacs; and contributor John Kerr from the Veterans Screening Committee round out the list.

Induction requires 18 of 24 votes from the Hall of Fame's Honors Committee.

Boehm and Calhoun are both closing in on 700 career victories.

Calhoun has led Connecticut to two NCAA championships (1999, 2004), eight Big East regular-season titles, and 17 consecutive post-season tournaments.

"The phenomenal team successes we've had over the years, the championships we've won, and the wonderful young men I've been fortunate enough to coach, have been a source of great personal pride for me," Calhoun said. "But, there has been no greater recognition personally than to be told I am a Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame finalist."

Boehm and Syracuse won the NCAA championship in 2003, and have eight Big East regular-season championships. Under Boehm, Syracuse has made 23 NCAA tournament appearances and has been to the Final Four three times.

Dumars played his entire professional career for the Detroit Pistons, and helped them win

back-to-back NBA championships (1989, 1990). He currently is president of basketball operations for the Pistons, credited for assembling the team that won the 2004 NBA title.

Dumars was a six-time NBA All-Star and MVP of the 1989 NBA Finals.

Wilkins' above-the-rim acrobatics earned him the nickname "The Human Highlight Film."

A prolific scorer, Wilkins played most of his NBA career for the Atlanta Hawks (1982-93), who retired his jersey. He also played for the Los Angeles Clippers, Boston Celtics, San Antonio Spurs and Orlando Magic. Wilkins was a nine-time NBA All-Star, and a two-time NBA Slam Dunk champion.

Brown's career touches nearly every aspect of the game. He's been NBA Coach of the Year twice (1978 in Atlanta; 2004 in Memphis), and is well-known as a TV analyst. Eight of his former as-

sistants have gone on to become head coaches in the NBA.

Chancellor and Gunter were named finalists from the Women's Selection Committee.

Chancellor led the Houston Comets to four straight WNBA titles (1997-2000) and won 439 games as the head women's coach at Ole Miss (1978-1997).

Gunter coached LSU for 22 seasons (1982-2004) and spent 16 seasons at Stephen F. Austin (1964-1980) after beginning her coaching career at Middle Tennessee State (1962-1964). She is the third-winningest coach in women's NCAA history with 708 wins, and led LSU to 14 NCAA tournament berths, including one Final Four appearance.

Candidates remain eligible until going three consecutive years without receiving a vote from the screening committee. At that point, a nominee is removed from consideration for five years before he or she can be nominated again.

Shaq provides laughs as Iverson leads East win

By EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

DENVER — Shaq had dance moves for the crowd, a cell phone in his shoe and hugs for pretty much everyone except you-know-who.

The big fella kept things light Sunday night, adding a bit of comic relief to an otherwise nondescript All-Star Game, a 125-115 victory for the East.

"You smile, you act crazy and silly. And I think people like me because I'm different," said Shaquille O'Neal, who finished with 12 points, six rebounds, three steals and three blocked shots.

"I've always been a class clown type of guy. It comes natural."

During pregame introductions, O'Neal strutted into the spotlight and did a little dance that included a funky, wavy break-dance move with his arms.

Before the opening tip, he had handshakes and hugs for all of his Western Conference opponents. All except Kobe Bryant, that is.

The former Lakers teammates didn't acknowledge each other and only came in contact twice during the game — once when Bryant made a nice, left-handed shot over O'Neal and once when Shaq knocked the ball away from Bryant, but got called for a foul.

Bryant finished with better numbers — 16 points, seven assists, six rebounds and three steals — and was the most intense player on the court during the fourth quarter.

But this show was clearly not his. In fact, he was the only player booed during pre-game introductions, likely a residual effect both from rape accusations made against him in Colorado two summers ago — charges were dropped last September — and from his fractured relationship with O'Neal.

"You know, I'm really not going to make this weekend about myself and Shaquille," Bryant said. "That's just not fair. That's not basketball."

The All-Star Game is — well — only sports basketball.

At what other game, after all, does a player do a television interview from the bench where he shows off a cell phone imbedded in his size 22 shoe? "It's big, you can take it anywhere, make people look at you," O'Neal explained. "And it prevents muggings. Kick them right in the (be)hind with that Shaq shoe phone."

And at what other game would the big guy put his hand on his hip and stick out his funny before shooting one of those ugly, one-handed free throws? He missed the course.

It was clear it would be a boring game if everybody was the same, just like it would be boring if you guys asked the same dumb questions. O'Neal said.

Among those who did take the game seriously was Allen Iverson.

Iverson finished with 15 points,



Vince Carter, of the New Jersey Nets, dunks after tossing himself an alley-oop pass during the second quarter of the NBA All-Star Game.



nine assists and five steals to win his second Most Valuable Player award in the All-Star Game. His last MVP came the last time the East won, 111-110 in 2001 when Iverson scored 15 points over the last nine minutes to lead his team back from a 21-point deficit.

This time, there was no need for such drama, and no need for Iverson to pour in 60 points the way he did earlier this season for the struggling 76ers. All he needed to do was play defense, distribute and let his teammates do their thing.

"I'm playing with the greatest players in the world and I'm playing with four other All-Stars," Iverson said. "So, I mean, in a game like this, you just let it come to you."

Iverson teamed up with LeBron James on the prettiest play of the first quarter, an alley-oop

slam by the 20-year-old Cleveland guard who became the second-youngest All-Star starter in NBA history.

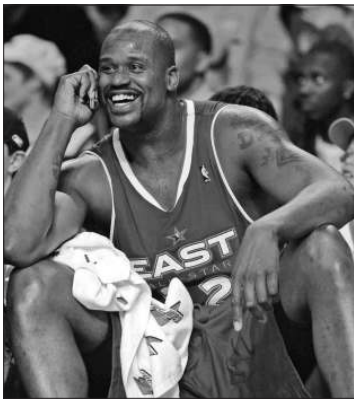
Bryant worked the crowd late in the second quarter by reaching behind his head to catch an alley-oop pass from Steve Nash and slamming it through.

Two players threw alley-oop passes to themselves — Vince Carter and Tracy McGrady, who each slammed the ball off the glass, then jumped, caught and dunked for a couple of the most exciting moments of the night.

Dwyane Wade had a break-away reverse dunk early in the final period to put the East ahead 102-93. After Bryant hit a pair of three-pointers to close the West to 110-105, Shaq bounded off the bench and returned. The West never pulled closer, though, and the game ended with O'Neal getting to attempt a three-pointer.

It clanked off the rim, but it didn't matter. The showman finished the night the way he started — in the spotlight.

"It's not with just his scoring or his passing ability or his rebounding or anything like that," Iverson said of the difference O'Neal makes. "It's his presence."



East's Shaquille O'Neal, of the Miami Heat, talks on the phone from the bench during the second quarter of the NBA All-Star Game in Denver.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	26	509	
Philadelphia	27	27	491	1
New Jersey	23	30	434	4
New York	21	32	396	6
Toronto	21	32	396	6

Southeast Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	25	24	741	
Washington	30	22	577	9
Orlando	28	28	538	19
Charlotte	11	39	220	27
Atlanta	10	41	196	28½

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	32	19	627	—
Cleveland	30	21	588	2
Chicago	25	23	531	5
Indiana	25	28	480	7
Milwaukee	20	34	400	11½

Western Conference

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	41	12	774	
Memphis	36	16	682	1
Houston	32	21	604	9
Dallas	29	26	560	11
New Orleans	11	42	206	30

Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	25	17	700	—
Minnesota	27	17	550	10
Denver	24	23	453	12½
Portland	21	30	412	14½
Utah	17	35	337	19

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	31	13	759	—
Sacramento	30	20	623	7½
L.A. Lakers	25	24	526	11
L.A. Clippers	23	30	434	17½
Golden State	18	35	350	25½

East All-Stars 125, West All-Stars 115

No games scheduled

Monday's games

Indiana at Orlando

Milwaukee at Charlotte

Miami at Chicago

Seattle at Houston

Atlanta at Sacramento

Boston at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday's games

Chicago at Cleveland

Seattle at New Orleans

New Jersey at Milwaukee

Houston at San Antonio

Dallas at Utah

Boston at Denver

Atlanta at Phoenix

L.A. Lakers at Portland

Atlanta at Golden State

East All-Stars 125, West All-Stars 115

At Denver

East — Carter 4-8 0-11, Hill 3-6 0-6 0-6, 5

Shaq 6-11 0-12, Wade 4-13 7-15, 15

James 6-13 0-11, 13, J'Neal 6-10 14-15, Wade

4-14 0-16, Nash 12-22 0-2, Marion 5-9 1-10,

6, Pierce 4-7 1-8, Jamison 25-30 5, Iga-

2-22 2-11, McGrady 4-13 0-8, Bryant 10-11

15, Yao 5-12 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11,

11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11,

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Three-Point Goals—East 6-17 (Carter 3-5, Jamison 1-1, Arenas 1-3, James 1-4, 5, O'Neal 0-1, Wade 0-1, Pierce 0-1, West 0-2) (Allen 5-11, Bryant 2-5, Duncan 1-1, Nowitzki 1-3, Nash 0-1, Ginobili 0-2, Lewis 0-2, McGrady 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—East 65 (James 8), West 69 (Duncan, Stoudemire 9). Assists—East 28 (Iverson 9), West 38 (Pierce 11, 18, 22, 27). (18, 22, 27).

Multiple All-Star MVPs

Players that have been named NBA All-Star MVP more than once:

4 — **Bob Pettit** (1956, 1958 & 1959, 1962)

3 — **Oscar Robertson** (1961, 1964, 1969)

2 — **Allen Iverson** (2001, 2005)

2 — **Shaquille O'Neal** (2000, >2004)

2 — **Magic Johnson** (1980, 1982)

2 — **Earl Monroe** (1988, >1992)

2 — **Isiah Thomas** (1984, 1986)

2 — **Julius Erving** (1977, 1981)

2 — **Bob Cousy** (1954, 1957)

>Name not on AP

NBA leaders

Through Feb. 17

Scoring

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Racing scoreboard

Daytona 500

NASCAR Nextel Cup
At Daytona International Speedway
Daytona Beach, Fla.
Lap length: 2.5 miles
(Start number in parentheses)

1. (15) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 203.
2. (13) Kurt Busch, Ford, 203, \$1,062,150.
3. (3) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 203, \$790,608.
4. (12) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 203, \$617,798.
5. (21) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 203, \$512,216.
6. (52) Mark Martin, Ford, 203, \$374,025.
7. (4) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 203, \$379,410.
8. (18) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 203, \$379,410.
9. (8) Kevin Lesage, Dodge, 203, \$277,959.
10. (39) Rudy Walcott, Dodge, 203, \$256,433.
11. (19) Elliott Sadtler, Ford, \$297,441.
12. (27) Carl Edwards, Ford, \$257,450.
13. (54) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 203, \$269,433.
14. (30) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 203, \$249,175.
15. (11) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 203, \$286,281.
16. (26) Jeff Green, Dodge, 203, \$268,011.
17. (13) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 203, \$251,858.
18. (35) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 203, \$237,250.
19. (25) Travis Kvieci, Chevrolet, 203, \$146,250.
20. (59) Bryan Newman, Dodge, 203, \$78,251.
21. (29) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 203, \$453,360.
22. (37) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 203, \$267,175.
23. (21) Naser Mayfield, Dodge, 203, \$267,175.
24. (11) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 203, \$260,814.
25. (13) Jeff Wolfe, Dodge, 203, \$240,800.
26. (22) Casey Mears, Dodge, 199, \$251,858.
27. (13) Jeff Wolfe, Dodge, 199, \$240,800.
28. (30) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 198, \$240,800.
29. (6) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 194, \$256,433.
30. (13) Scott Riggs, Dodge, 187, accident.
31. (30) John Andretti, Ford, 187, accident.
32. (52) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 184, accident.
33. (22) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 182, accident.
34. (13) Michael Waltrip, Dodge, 182, accident.
35. (13) Michael Waltrip, Dodge, 181, accident.
36. (13) Michael Waltrip, Dodge, 181, accident.
37. (13) Michael Waltrip, Dodge, 181, accident.
38. (13) Michael Waltrip, Dodge, 181, accident.
39. (11) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 120, engine failure.
40. (12) Kenny Wallace, Chevrolet, 39, overheat.
41. (41) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 35, overheat.
42. (10) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 34, engine failure.
43. (42) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 14, engine failure.
44. (42) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 14, engine failure.

Time of Race: 3 hours, 45 minutes, 16 seconds.
Margin of Victory: 0.158 seconds.
Winner's Average Speed: 130.171 mph.
Fastest Lap: 1:10.492 by Jeff Gordon.
Lead Changes: 22 among 12 drivers.

Lap Leaders: D. Jarrett 1-10; J. Gordon 11-13; K. Petty 14-15; K. Petty 16-17; M. Waltrip 18-21; S. Winner 22-23; J. Gordon 24-26; J. Mayfield 27; T. Stewart 28-30; S. Winner 31-32; T. Stewart 33-34; S. Winner 35-36; J. Mayfield 37-38; T. Stewart 39-40; S. Winner 41-42; T. Stewart 43-44; K. Harvick 45; T. Stewart 46-48; D. Earnhardt Jr. 49-51; T. Stewart 52-53; D. Earnhardt Jr. 54-55; J. Gordon 56-57.

Point Standings: 1. J. Gordon, 185; 2. K. Busch, 176; 3. D. Earnhardt Jr., 170; 4. S. Riggs, 165; 5. J. Johnson, 156; 6. T. Stewart, 155; 7. M. Martin, 150; 8. S. Martin, 142; 9. K. Lesage, 138; 10. R. Walcott, 134.

Daytona 500 winners

- 2005 - Jeff Gordon
2004 - Dale Earnhardt Jr.
2003 - Michael Waltrip
2002 - Ward Burton
2001 - Michael Waltrip
2000 - Dale Jarrett
1999 - Dale Jarrett
1998 - Dale Earnhardt
1997 - Sterling Marlin
1996 - Sterling Marlin
1995 - Davey Allison
1994 - Ernie Irvell
1993 - Ernie Irvell
1992 - Dale Earnhardt
1991 - Bobby Allison
1990 - Bobby Allison
1989 - Bobby Allison
1988 - Bill Elliott
1987 - Bill Elliott
1986 - Cale Yarborough
1985 - Cale Yarborough
1984 - Cale Yarborough
1983 - Cale Yarborough
1982 - Bobby Allison
1981 - Richard Petty
1980 - Bobby Allison
1979 - Bobby Allison
1978 - Cale Yarborough
1977 - Benny Parsons
1976 - Richard Petty
1975 - Richard Petty
1974 - A.J. Foyt
1973 - Richard Petty
1972 - Richard Petty
1971 - Lee Roy Yarborough
1970 - Cale Yarborough
1969 - Lee Roy Yarborough
1968 - Lee Roy Yarborough
1967 - Mario Andretti
1966 - Richard Petty
1965 - Fred Lorenzen
1964 - Richard Petty
1963 - Richard Petty
1962 - Marvin Panch
1961 - Junior Johnson
1960 - Junior Johnson
1959 - Lee Petty



Jeff Gordon (24) passes Dale Earnhardt Jr. in the backstretch at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday. Earnhardt, who struggled with the handling of his car all day, came back from 30th to lead the Daytona 500 but failed to become the fourth back-to-back winner.

Junior falls short in bid for Daytona double

By PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. couldn't pull off the Daytona double.

He sure had fun trying. Coming from as far back as 30th, Earnhardt overcame an ill-handling car and seized the lead near the end of Sunday's Daytona 500.

Earnhardt settled for third — many wearing Earnhardt red — was delirious when the No. 8 car surged to the front. The sport's most popular driver was just a few laps from back-to-back victories in the biggest race.

It didn't last, though. Jeff Gordon stormed back for his third Daytona 500 victory. Earnhardt settled for third — a couple of car lengths short but OK with the outcome.

"I'm not too disappointed," he said, having missed a chance to become the fourth back-to-back 500 winner. "I know I can't win them all."

Earnhardt spent most of the day wrestling his car, more con-

cerned with keeping it off the wall than trying to win a second straight Daytona 500. Even so, the leaders kept glancing nervously in their rearview mirrors, figuring Junior would show up sooner or later. They were right.

That Earnhardt even had a chance to win was a testament to the dogged perseverance he inherited from his father, a seven-time NASCAR Cup champion who died at this track in 2001. "We struggled all day with the car," Junior said. "We tried to get it to handle, but it wouldn't turn. We were terrible."

But Earnhardt remained patient and his new crew kept working on the car, finally sorting out the problems with some minor tweaking to the chassis set-up and a new set of tires.

"They did exactly what I needed," he said. "I had one of the best cars out there at the end of the race."

Suddenly, Earnhardt was a past all those cars in front of him.

Earnhardt took his first lead of the race just five laps from the

scheduled finish, slipping by Tony Stewart. In a bit of gamesmanship that would have been his father proud, Junior told his crew to pass along a message to Stewart's people: Stay on the inside and they could team up.

Instead, Earnhardt saw his opportunity to pass on the outside — and he took it.

"Once I got a run going, it was time for me to think about winning the race," he said. "I had a chance to be a back-to-back Daytona 500 champion. That would have been awesome."

Stewart reclaimed the top spot on the next lap, then Earnhardt edged by him again. With another victory in sight, Junior couldn't keep his car in front. Gordon found a burst of speed going down the long backstretch, clearing Earnhardt as they barreled into turn three.

"He went by so fast. I couldn't even scratch the side of his car," Earnhardt said. "At that point, I felt lucky just to be in second."

Even though a late caution added three laps to the scheduled 200-lap distance, Junior never

made another serious challenge for the lead. In fact, he couldn't hold off Kurt Busch for the runner-up spot.

No problem. Considering how far he'd just come, Earnhardt was satisfied with the outcome.

"It was a real exciting race today," he said. "I saw a lot of out of my front windshield. It looked like a lot of fun. And it was fun for me at the end when I was able to get there."

Earnhardt's victory last year became an emotional tribute to his dad, who needed 20 tries to win his first Daytona 500. Three years later, the Intimidator lost his life in the same race, the victim of a crash on the final lap.

Earnhardt is focused on winning his first series championship. During the offseason, he switched crews with Dale Earnhardt Inc. teammate Michael Waltrip. Clearly, the new arrangement seems to be working out.

"It's just a super-relaxed deal we've got going," Earnhardt said. "There's not a lot of pressure. There's no pressure to be No. 1 all the time. I'm pretty happy with the results."

Heal: Champions happy to lose 500 to Hendrick

HEAL, FROM BACK PAGE

That was the start of the kid's apprenticeship. Ricky was never interested in the first empire that Rick built, turning a single car dealership into one of the nation's largest retail chains. The plan was always for Ricky to take over more and more of the show, so the old man could go down to the Florida Keys more often and do some fishing. Toward the end, the two of them oversaw the building of a state-of-the-art facility atop a hill in Charlotte, N.C., their side-by-side offices overlooking the rest of Hendrick Motorsports complex.

Everything was on course when the plane went down in October, en route to Martinsville, Va., to join the rest of the team for a race. After that, Rick thought about quitting. Slowly, he summoned the strength to get back to work, leaving the office alongside his empty to remind him of the dream they both planned to fulfill.

His team rededicated itself even faster. Jimmie Johnson pulled into the winner's circle in Hampton, Ga., the very next week, the pictures of his 10 lost friends splashed across the hood of the car. He and Gordon roared through the rest of the season as though on a mission, finishing second and third, respectively, to Kurt Busch in the closest-ever race for the NASCAR season title. Then came the start of this one.

"I'm happy for Rick. It's a great win," owner Jack Roush, who claimed second at Daytona with Busch and is Hendrick's toughest rival in NASCAR, said on his way back to the garage.

"Partly because of the tough things he's been through. But he deserved it, too, because he had the best car and a great strategy — the same things he always does."

Even with a fast car at his command, and the patience and experience to know when to pounce, it still took some steely nerves for Gordon to get past Dale Earnhardt Jr., who was leading until the end and wound up finishing third. Great as his disappointment must have been, even Earnhardt felt good about seeing the "W" wind up in Hendrick's column. After losing his father in a last-lap crash at the Daytona 500 just four years ago, Junior understands how tough it can be to get back to the racetrack.

"I don't know if you could be human," Earnhardt said, "and not feel something for Rick."



Ricky Hendrick, right, pictured at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., in 2003, was being groomed to take over Hendrick Motorsports.

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SPORTS



Scott wins 36-hole
Nissan Open in playoff,
Page 28

Win helps Hendrick team heal

You could walk the length of this oval two times and be hard pressed to find anyone connected to the sport who wouldn't call this one fitting.

Yet even if team owner Rick Hendrick wins another five Daytona 500s every bit as exhilarating as the one that Jeff Gordon brought back to the garage Sunday, it wouldn't erase the hurt of a plane crash last fall that killed his son, Ricky, his only brother, John, and eight others who were part of the Hendrick family, or close enough to feel like kin.

But in a sport where tragedy always casts a lingering shadow, a sliver of late-afternoon light bathed Victory Lane in a warm glow and let Hendrick feel joy again for a few moments — even if he can't ever forget.

"There was a lot of fire in our hearts. Every race we come to now, I think about all those people," Hendrick said. "And this is the Super Bowl of racing, so coming down here, you always want to do well. You want to start the year off well."

"We feel like it's a way to honor those that we lost and we love and we miss. And so," he added, "sure, it's a great win."

Sitting to Hendrick's left, Gordon struggled for something to

Jim Liske



They have been almost as close as father and son since.

"You know they're looking down smiling," Gordon said finally.

"It doesn't get any better than that."

Long before Gordon won here for the third time and delivered the fifth title for Hendrick's operation, the boss was known as the nicest guy in the business. That never kept Hendrick from also being one of the best. It's been 19 years since he won his first Daytona 500 with Geoff Bodine behind the wheel, but it remains every bit as vivid as this latest one.

"The picture that I probably treasure with Ricky more than any other ... was when he was on my shoulders here back when Geoff won," Hendrick recalled.

add. Hendrick knew the 33-year-old driver once labeled "Wonder Boy" was something special after watching Gordon turn a couple of laps in a Busch race at Atlanta nearly 15 years ago.



Jeff Gordon and car owner Rick Hendrick celebrate Gordon's victory in the Daytona 500 Sunday. Hendrick lost his son, his brother and eight others affiliated with Hendrick Motorsports in a plane crash last October.

SEE HEAL ON PAGE 31



**Far East
Class A, Class AA
basketball
tournaments begin**

Page 27



Iverson, O'Neal lead East Stars past West's best

East All-Star Allen Iverson keeps dribbling despite colliding with Kobe Bryant. Iverson earned MVP honors with his 15 points, 10 assists and five steals, but Shaquille O'Neal was the most popular player, giving hugs to every All-Star — except Bryant — dancing during his pregame introduction and showing off a cell phone imbedded in his size 22 shoe. The East beat the West in the All-Star Game in Denver. See story, Page 30

AP



**Redick's
career-high
38 points lift
Duke over Wake**

Page 29

Injured Pujols still early for Cardinals' camp Page 25



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